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17 May 1982

ENGLISH

UN/SA COLLECTION
Forty-ninth Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FIFTEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 17 May 1982, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. GOULDING (United Kingdom)

later: President: Mr. POUDADE (France)

Opening of the forty-ninth session

Adoption of the agenda

Report of the Secretary-General on credentials

Election of the President and the Vice-President

Organization of work

Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1981: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

OPENING OF THE FORTY-NINTH SESSION

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the forty-ninth session of the Trusteeship Council.

On behalf of the Council I should like to extend a very warm welcome to all of the participants this year, especially to those who have come from the Trust Territory to take part in our work. It is the promotion of their political, economic, social and educational advancement which is one of the basic objectives of the Trusteeship System.

Amongst the "home team" I particularly welcome Ambassador William Sherman, who will be leading the United States delegation this year. We shall miss his predecessor, Ambassador Lichenstein, who led the Administering Authority's delegation with such distinction last year. But he is still in New York, and we can be confident of seeing him often at work in other organs of the United Nations.

My friend and colleague Paul Poudade is again leading the French delegation this year. He is already a veteran of the work of the Trusteeship Council, and I suspect I shall have a few more words to say about him in a few moments' time.

I also welcome Mr. Oleandrov, head of the Soviet delegation. He will be leading his very experienced team for the first time. It is a great pleasure again to see Mr. Levchenko, who has come from Moscow for this occasion.

But the most important welcome I extend is to the many people - a hearteningly large number of people - who have come from the Trust Territory to help us in our work. There are a number of old, familiar faces, a number of new faces. I particularly welcome Ambassador Fred Zeder, the Personal Representative of President Reagan for the Micronesian Status Negotiations. I also particularly welcome the new High Commissioner for the Trust Territory, the Honourable Janet McCoy. It is very good to have them both with us.

(The President)

And then let me extend a particularly warm welcome to President Kabua of the Marshall Islands; to Governor Pedro Tenorio, heading a recently-elected administration in the Northern Marianas; to Mr. Oiterong, Vice-President of Palau, who was with us last year; and to Mr. Asterio Takesy, who is leading the delegation from the Federated States of Micronesia this year.

I must also refer to an old friend, Mr. Tony DeBrum, Secretary of Foreign Affairs from the Marshall Islands, who is leading his delegation, and to Mr. Lazarus Salii, Special Status Negotiator for the Republic of Palau.

I think we are going to have a busy and, I hope, a fruitful session. We shall work hard and in close consultation with all the participants. I am sure that with their assistance we shall achieve results which will justify the high hopes the people of the Territory have invested in this Council.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (T/1836)

The PRESIDENT: Members of the Council have before them in document T/1836 the provisional agenda which has been drawn up by the Secretary-General in consultation with the President of the Council under rule 8 of our rules of procedure. If there are no comments, and if there is no objection, I shall take it that the agenda of the forty-ninth session, as set out in document T/1836, is adopted.

The agenda was adopted.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CREDENTIALS

The PRESIDENT: I understand that the Secretary-General has still not received the credentials of all members of the Council. I suggest, therefore, that this agenda item be considered at a future meeting. If there are no objections it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT: I now invite members of the Council to elect a President for the forty-ninth session. This election will be carried out by secret ballot, in accordance with rule 41 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Mr. Paul Poudade (France) was elected President unanimously.

The PRESIDENT: Before I hand over the presidency to Mr. Poudade, I should like to congratulate him most warmly on his election. As I said just now, we got to know him very well last year in his capacity as Vice-President of the Council. As a result, we know how grateful the whole Council should be to the delegation of France for making available such an admirable candidate to take over as President of this Council. With his precision, his mastery of the subject-matter, his wit, I think the Council can have every confidence that he will direct our affairs in the next four weeks with very considerable skill.

I now invite Mr. Poudade to take the Chair.

The PRESIDENT (Mr. Poudade) (interpretation from French): Before we proceed to the election of the Vice-President, I should like very sincerely to thank the members of the Council, on behalf of my country and personally, and to say how pleased and honoured I am to have been elected President of the Trusteeship Council.

My country has a long tradition of co-operation with this main organ of the United Nations. In the past, France was an Administering Authority and as such was answerable to the Council for the way in which it fulfilled its responsibilities. I take no less seriously the functions entrusted to me and consider them no less important; I hope that I prove worthy.

This is the third session of the Trusteeship Council in which I have participated, so it is with full knowledge of the facts that I find it an easy matter to pay a tribute to the Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization. I should like to hail Mr. Djermakoye, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization, and Mr. Rifai, who is not with us today, for their unfailing assistance in the work of this Council. I must also mention Mr. Girma Abebe's full knowledge of the material and his constant availability. For all delegations and, I am certain, for all my predecessors in this Chair, he has always been the best of advisers. I shall not hide the fact that he gave me several private lessons, to rehearse, so to speak, my taking up the office of President, and for that I thank him. In the days to come we shall need his talent and his patience; this goes too for his entire team, whose devotion is well known.

I crave the understanding and indulgence of members of the Council during my term of office; I do this all the more as I am Mr. Goulding's successor. I should like to say, as a veteran of the Trusteeship Council, as he called me, how much all of us have appreciated his competence and his calm. Personally, and on behalf of the Council, I should like to express our gratitude to him for his great courtesy, which did not preclude his displaying authority throughout his presidency.

The task of our Council is now limited to keeping abreast of the development of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The Administering Authority has often expressed its intention to put an end to the present status. The fact remains that until that happens, it must fully shoulder its obligations,

(The President)

and that our responsibilities as members of the Trusteeship Council remain unchanged. It is up to the Council to ensure, with regard to the future of Micronesia, scrupulous observance of the Charter in all its relevant articles, and respect for the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement. I feel sure of the co-operation of all delegations present here in the accomplishment of that task.

We shall now proceed to the election of the Vice-President of the Trusteeship Council.

A vote was taken by secret ballot.

Mr. Marrack Goulding (United Kingdom) was elected Vice-President unanimously.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should like briefly to express to Mr. Goulding my warmest congratulations. He is not only an excellent colleague, but also a personal friend. I have just spoken of his authority, his competence and his talent, and I shall now add that as far as irony is concerned he is my equal. I think that the entire Council is proud to have Mr. Goulding as Vice-President.

I now call on Mr. Djermakoye, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization.

Mr. DJERMAKOYE (Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization) (interpretation from French): The Secretary-General, Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, would have wished to come here himself today - as he has come to the opening meetings of each decolonization body of the Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization - to open this forty-ninth session of the Trusteeship Council. Unfortunately, the many concerns of the day have prevented that, and he has asked me to represent him and, in particular to welcome the Micronesian representatives.

I am pleased to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the presidency of the Trusteeship Council, and I wish you great success in the discharge of the important task with which the Council has entrusted you. There is no need to recall your great qualities as a diplomat, or to emphasize your vast experience both in the activities of the Council and in the work of the United

(Mr. Djermakoye)

Nations as a whole. These are well known to all and make you a natural choice for the important post of President of the Council.

At the same time I should like to thank and to pay a tribute to the outgoing President, Mr. Goulding, for the exemplary way in which he successfully conducted the work of the Trusteeship Council throughout its last session. I offer him our deep gratitude for the tireless efforts that he constantly made to help our work move forward towards a peaceful solution in accordance with the self-determination of the peoples under trusteeship. It is also a pleasure for me to congratulate him on his recent election to the vice-presidency of this important United Nations organ.

The Trusteeship Council has always endeavoured to lead the peoples of the Trust Territories towards the final objectives defined by the Charter: autonomy or independence. I think that the Council can with justice feel satisfaction and, certainly, pride at the work it has done. One of the important facets of the International Trusteeship System is that it offers the possibility of closer contact between the United Nations and the peoples of the Trust Territories, thereby facilitating the achievement of the purposes set out in the Charter.

The fact that we have among us this morning several Micronesian leaders and representatives who have come to participate in the Council's deliberations on their Territories is testimony to the traditional, long-standing ties between our Organization and the peoples of the Trust Territories.

As the Council begins its forty-ninth session, to study conditions in the last remaining Trust Territory, I should like to express the hope that the future status of the Territory will provide a solution fully reflecting the wishes and aspirations of its inhabitants.

Finally, I should like to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. President, for your kind words and to assure members of the Council of the co-operation of the Secretariat staff, who will spare no effort to provide the Council with the services it needs to accomplish its task.

Mr. GOULDING (United Kingdom): I do not wish to bore the Council with the mutual exchange of compliments between yourself and myself, but I would like to thank you for your very kind remarks on my election as Vice-President.

I should like also to express to the entire Council my appreciation of the confidence that has been placed in me and to thank Mr. Djermakoye for what he had to say. It is a great honour and privilege for us that he is able to be present at our opening session today.

Finally, I should like to associate my delegation with what you, Mr. President, had to say about the support the Council receives from its secretariat, and above all from the tireless Mr. Abebe.

Mr. LEVITTE (France) (interpretation from French): My delegation would like to congratulate you, Sir, most heartily on your election to the presidency of this forty-ninth session of the Trusteeship Council. There is no need to say how happy we are to see a compatriot accede to that lofty position. Nor is there any need for me to say that you can count upon the full co-operation of the French delegation in ensuring that our work under your presidency will be successful.

I should also like to take this opportunity to pay a special tribute to Mr. Marrack Goulding, who presided over the forty-eighth session of the Trusteeship Council with so much talent and distinction. On behalf of the delegation of France, I extend to him heartfelt congratulations on his election to the post of Vice-President for the forty-ninth session of the Council.

I also extend my delegation's sincere thanks to Mr. Djermakoye, whose tireless devotion we have much appreciated, as well as to the Secretariat, thanks to which we are able to conduct our work successfully.

Mr. OLEANDROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I should like to congratulate you, Sir, on your election to the post of President of the Trusteeship Council at its forty-ninth session, and to wish you success in discharging the responsible tasks facing the Council.

We should also like to thank Mr. Goulding, the outgoing President, for his able guidance of the Council last year and to congratulate him on his election to the post of Vice-President.

We also express our gratitude to Mr. Goulding for the words of welcome he spoke to our delegation.

We hope that this session of the Council will defend the genuine interests of the people of Micronesia.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I would like to thank all the speakers for their kind words addressed to me and to the Vice-President. I believe that I also reflect Mr. Djermakoye's views in thanking representatives on his behalf.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): A provisional time-table for the forty-ninth session of the Trusteeship Council has been prepared and circulated to members of the Council by the Secretariat. It has been prepared in order to give members an idea of the work to be accomplished and the time that will be needed for this. The Council is, of course, free to modify this programme of work in accordance with circumstances and with the wishes of members, bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions and decisions that set forth guidelines and directives on the allocation and utilization of conference resources.

If there are no further comments, I shall take it that the Council agrees to follow the time-table submitted by the Secretariat as faithfully as possible.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Before we begin the substantive part of our work, I should like to ask members of the Council to do everything in their power to be punctual in order that the Council will be able to apply the decisions and resolutions of the General Assembly on the maximum use of conference resources. I should also like to recall the provisions of General Assembly resolution 36/117 B, concerning the simultaneous distribution of documents in the various working languages to the different bodies of the Assembly.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1981: TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1837)

The PRESIDENT: The Council will now begin its consideration of conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Mr. SHERMAN (United States of America): Before introducing the members of the delegation, I first wish to extend my congratulations to you, Sir, on your election as President of the forty-ninth session of the United Nations Trusteeship Council. We have greatly benefited from your outstanding service as Vice-President of the Council during the past year, and under your leadership and guidance we are fully confident that the work of this session will be conducted efficiently and harmoniously.

May I also extend our sincere congratulations to the newly elected Vice-President, Mr. Goulding, who deserves our deepest appreciation for the thoroughly exemplary, even-handed and skilful manner in which he served as President of the Council.

It is a privilege and honour for me to appear before the Council today as the representative of the United States. My delegation is prepared to do whatever it can to assist the Council in performing its tasks as set forth under the Charter and in the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement that governs our duties and responsibilities in administering the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

(Mr. Sherman, United States)

I take great pleasure in introducing to you and to the members of the Council the Special Representatives from the Trust Territory.

I would ask them to stand as I introduce them to the Council. In the course of the proceedings, they in turn will introduce other members of their delegations who are here to participate in this session.

I am especially honoured to present to you, first, the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, Mrs. Janet McCoy, who assumed her duties in December 1981 and who is participating in her first session of the Council; the Honourable Pedro Tenorio, who was elected Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands last November; the Honourable Alfonso Oiterong, Vice-President of the Republic of Palau; the Honourable Anton DeBrum, Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Honourable Asterio Takesy, Deputy Secretary for External Affairs of the Federated States of Micronesia. May I also at this time present the Honourable Fred Zeder, who is our President's Personal Representative for the Status Negotiations. Also with us today is the Honourable Amata Kabua, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

I request that they be seated as members of this delegation.

At the invitation of the President, Mrs. McCoy, Mr. Tenorio, Mr. Oiterong, Mr. DeBrum and Mr. Takesy, Special Representatives, and Mr. Kabuc and Mr. Zeder, Special Advisers, took places at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As Council members know, the representatives of the Trust Territory and those who come from Washington attend the annual Council sessions to give us information about events that have occurred during the past year in the political, economic and social fields in the Territory. Each time the Council hears specialists who have come from the Trust Territory and who are familiar with the situation prevailing there. Naturally, we are happy to have amongst us the leaders of Micronesia as well as the representatives of the Administering Authority. Their presence will greatly facilitate our work when the Council considers the situation in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Mr. SHERMAN (United States of America): My country is proud of its record as Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The United States has pursued, and continues to pursue, policies to promote the orderly political, social and economic development of all parts of the Trust Territory in accordance with the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement. We remain dedicated to the achievement of self-government and self-determination for all peoples of dependent territories.

My Government is fully committed to carrying out its responsibilities and obligations under the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory. Our responsibilities include not only the economic, social and educational development of the Trust Territory, but also the achievement of progress towards self-government and a political status that meets the desires of the peoples of the Trust Territory. I ask that the Council bear in mind throughout these proceedings that it is the needs and desires of the peoples of Micronesia which govern our stewardship and the oversight of the Council of this the last United Nations Trust Territory.

As members of this Council are well aware, the Government of the United States and the representatives of the constitutional governments in the Trust Territory have pursued a negotiated future political status and relationship for many years. We are now closer to reaching that goal than ever before. While the negotiations are not yet complete, we can report to the members of the Council at this session that the basic instrument has been negotiated and agreed on, that the remaining subsidiary agreements are nearing

(Mr. Sherman, United States)

completion and that the approval process for a new political status for the Trust Territory can take place officially in the near future.

It will be recalled that at the time of the forty-eighth session of the Council one year ago my Government was engaged in an extensive and wide-ranging review of its position with respect to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and the negotiations with the Governments of Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia on their future political status. As a consequence, our statements on these subjects last year were necessarily circumscribed.

I am pleased to report that the policy review was completed in September 1981. Its principal conclusions were as follows.

First, it is in the mutual interest of the United States and of the Governments and peoples of the Trust Territory to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement at the earliest possible date, provided that the termination can be effected on terms mutually satisfactory to the United States and to the Governments and peoples of the Trust Territory.

Secondly, the United States for its part concluded that, of all available political status options, the status of free association, as developed in the Compact of Free Association initialled by the United States and the Governments of Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia in late 1980, is the most appropriate one. I would add that this conclusion affirms a recommendation first put forth by the Congress of Micronesia in 1970.

Thirdly, the United States wishes to conclude the political status negotiations at the earliest possible date and on the basis of the Compact of Free Association and five subsidiary agreements initialled simultaneously therewith, provided that several remaining agreements subsidiary to the Compact of Free Association are also negotiated to the mutual satisfaction of the governments concerned.

Immediately upon the completion of the policy review, the United States invited representatives of Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia to a meeting in Hawaii, at which these conclusions were officially communicated to the representatives of those three Governments. I am pleased to report that the representatives of those Governments - Vice-President Oiterong of

(Mr. Sherman, United States)

Palau, President Kabua of the Marshall Islands and President Nakayama of the Federated States of Micronesia - delivered statements which welcomed those conclusions and affirmations by the United States and which expressed the desire of their respective Governments, paralleling the desire of my Government, to complete the political status negotiations at the earliest possible date on the basis of the Compact of Free Association.

The White House, on 24 September 1981, announced the completion of the policy review and distributed the statements made in Hawaii on 3 October 1981 by Under-Secretary of State James L. Buckley, Chairman of the Interagency Group on Micronesia, by three other senior members of the United States delegation, and by Vice-President Oiterong, President Kabua and President Nakayama. Those documents have been distributed to Council members and are reflected in the annual report and in the Secretariat summary.

Since the meeting in Hawaii last October the United States has made every effort to fulfil its pledge to complete the negotiations as rapidly as possible. Working intensively in Washington with representatives of the three Governments, our negotiators have prepared drafts of all the remaining subsidiary agreements. These agreements are technical in nature and cover matters which range from the turnover of United States property, to the administration of postal services, to the extradition of persons wanted for prosecution on criminal charges. Precisely because of their technical nature and because of the extensive ties that now exist between the Trust Territory and the United States, and that will continue to exist after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, the negotiation of those agreements has of necessity involved very detailed positions and solutions.

Nevertheless, the progress has been substantial and in several cases the United States is now awaiting the comments and reactions of the other three Governments to the draft agreements worked out with their Washington representatives. Most recently, a United States delegation headed by Ambassador Fred M. Zeder, the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations, met in the capital of the Marshall Islands with a large Marshallese delegation to discuss several of the outstanding bilateral and multilateral agreements involving our two Governments. Ambassador Zeder will

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be having similar meetings in the next few weeks with delegations of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia so as to advance the process with them as well.

I will not attempt here to predict a date for the completion of the negotiating process, but I trust that before much more time has elapsed the United States and the Governments of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau will be in a position to report completion of the entire process, to sign the Compact of Free Association and all its related agreements and to submit those signed documents officially to the Council.

I envisage that at such time as the four Governments concerned are able to sign all the documents and to commit the documents to their respective domestic approval processes the United States will also be able, in consultation with the three Micronesian Governments, to establish a date for the plebiscite in the three Micronesian jurisdictions and to request that the Council organize a mission to observe that plebiscite, as the Council has done in the past on the occasions of the plebiscite in the Northern Mariana Islands on the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth in Political Union with the United States and of the several constitutional referendums conducted in the Trust Territory.

(Mr. Sherman, United States)

In this connexion I would like to reaffirm here the statement of my predecessors that it is the intention of the United States to take up the matter of termination of the Trusteeship Agreement with this Council and the Security Council at the appropriate time.

I should like to recall that the Council at its forty-eighth session last year decided to defer until this session the question of a date for the next periodic Visiting Mission of the Council to the Trust Territory. After careful consideration of that issue, and after consultation with the Governments of Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia and with the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, I should like to suggest that the Council consider dispatching a regular Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory this year, which would represent an interval of three years since the scheduled date of the last Visiting Mission, 1979, even though that Mission was not actually conducted until the beginning of 1980. I would suggest that the Council consider organizing and conducting a Visiting Mission within the next four months with the participation of all of the active members of the Council. This timing would permit the participants to complete their work and return for the opening of the General Assembly. I would hope that such a time-table would prove as convenient for the participants as I know it would for their hosts in the Trust Territory.

Should the Council decide to dispatch a Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory in the near future, we are confident that the Mission will be favourably impressed with the extent to which the institutions of self-government are in place, especially since the last Visiting Mission examined conditions in the islands. New institutions and new relationships have come into being in the past several years, accompanied by significant experience by the new constitutional Governments of Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia in such diverse areas as financial management, foreign affairs and local-federal relations.

What has not changed is the determination of the elected leaders of these areas, who are so ably represented here, to pursue the best interests of their people. In this context we have developed relationships with them in keeping

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with our mutual interests, and within this framework we believe that we shall soon be ready to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement. We share a respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and a commitment to self-determination based on democratic institutions. In my judgement, we are on the right course a course that will lead to the fulfilment of the aspirations of these peoples and Governments in the near future.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I now call on the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and Special Representative of the Administering Authority, Mrs. McCoy.

Mrs. McCoy (Special Representative): Mr. President, it is my pleasure to congratulate you on your election to this high office. On behalf of the Trust Territory Administration, I also extend congratulations to you and the Vice-President, and to the other members of the Council on their choice of officers. I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with you during this session and the ensuing year as we review the developments in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and move forward to the future and continuing self-government.

Before I begin my opening remarks, I should like to introduce the members of my staff: Mr. Sam McPhetres, Director of the Office of Archives, and Miss Joyce Price, our Administrative Assistant.

During the nearly seven months that I have been associated with the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands it has been a distinct honour for me to work with and get to know the capable and dedicated leaders of the constitutional Governments of the Trust Territory. I am impressed with their performance, their dedication and their ability to govern under the terms of Secretarial Order 3039, which allows nearly complete internal self-government under their Constitutions. By virtue of their expertise and the fact that some of these Governments have been functioning for nearly four years - the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has had self-government since January 1978 - I am relieved of many of the traditional duties of the High Commissioner. Hence my reporting on events and

(Mrs. McCoy, Special Representative)

developments within their jurisdictions will be extremely limited, as I shall rely upon their representatives to present their case to the Council and confine myself to issues facing the Trust Territory Administration in general.

Twenty years ago this month, High Commissioner Wilfred Goding reported that the Trust Territory Administration was in the process of moving its headquarters from Guam to Saipan, heralding the fact that the administrative headquarters would be located within the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands for the first time. Today we are preparing for the final move: the dissolution of the Trust Territory Administration and full constitutional authority by the four Micronesian Governments.

Twenty years ago we talked of 47 expatriate Americans filling positions in secretarial, clerical, supply and other fields and indicated that these positions would soon be filled by Micronesians. We announced with pride the assumption of positions of responsibility by qualified Micronesians as deputies, assistants and key personnel at various levels of government under American guidance. Today we have constitutional Governments headed by popularly elected Micronesians serving as Presidents, Governors and legislators, with other equally qualified Micronesians serving as justices, ministers and departmental secretaries many of whom are in this chamber today.

Two decades ago we spoke with pride about the creation of the Council of Micronesia - a group of elected Micronesians selected to advise the High Commissioner. This Council replaced an earlier appointed inter-district advisory committee. Since that time, we have had a territory-wide Congress of Micronesia with law making authority, constitutional conventions, a plebiscite and referendums and the creation and installation of freely chosen and locally designed Governments operating throughout the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and managing all phases of self-government - executive, legislative and judicial.

Twenty years ago we talked of developing commercial fishing throughout the Territory. Progress in this particular area has been extremely slow, but each of the four Governments is at present expending great efforts in developing economic zones and the control of commercial fishing.

(Mrs. McCoy, Special Representative)

At this time twenty years ago we indicated that \$100,000 had been requested for the establishment of a Micronesian development loan fund. Twenty years later the Economic Development Loan Fund has a balance of approximately \$5.5 million as a result of additional appropriations. The Fund will make loans available through institutions created by each of the Governments.

In 1962 commercial banks were difficult to find in the Islands. Two of the six major districts were without banking facilities. Today banks and savings and loan institutions are operating throughout the Trust Territory. While industrial development has been exceedingly difficult, tourism is rapidly becoming a primary industry throughout the islands.

Twenty years ago we were celebrating a major improvement in inter-island transportation, with the addition of a DC-4. This four-engine aircraft complemented two amphibious SA-16s and permitted more passengers and cargo to be flown throughout the Trust Territory. Today, as members well know, we have three B-727s operating both within and outside the Trust Territory, in addition to several small feeder lines. A most significant contribution to transportation has been the creation and operation of the airline of the Marshall Islands, serving the widespread atolls of the Marshalls. In addition, two international airlines provide additional scheduled service to and from the Trust Territory. Major airports are nearly all paved and capable of handling most commercial aircraft. The Republic of the Marshall Islands has developed and installed runways on many of the atolls and islands. I have flown on several of these flights and I commend the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands for its initiative and implementation of an excellent air transportation system.

(Mrs. McCoy, Special Representative)

While road building has been a constant and continuous programme for several decades, we are finally accomplishing the paving of the major roads throughout the Trust Territory. We anticipate continuing progress, with additional mileage being paved in the near future.

Schooling was quite different 20 years ago. The minimum age for entry to school was lowered from eight to seven years. Teachers were paid primarily from community funds provided by the parents. English had just become the official language of instruction. Each district centre had merely elementary schools and an intermediate school. Subsequently the programme was expanded to provide a full secondary-school programme. The Pacific Islands Central School on Ponape was in 1962 the only teacher-training institution and the only public high school.

Today there are 30 secondary schools and about 250 elementary schools, both public and private, throughout Micronesia. There is an accredited junior college and a wide range of extension programmes sponsored by universities from outside the Trust Territory. In addition there are scholarship programmes which have contributed to the higher education of thousands of Trust Territory citizens.

Twenty years ago land claims and homesteading were major issues. Today nearly all public land has been turned over to the constitutional Governments, and homesteading has met and continues to meet the needs of Micronesia's growing population.

Two decades ago former High Commissioner Goding spoke of new hospitals in Palau, on Saipan and on Majuro. In addition new facilities were planned for Truk and Ponape. Out-island dispensaries were also contemplated. Today new hospitals are operational in Yap and Ponape, and out-island dispensaries are functioning on most inhabited islands. Existing facilities are being reconditioned on Majuro and in Palau and Truk, with a new hospital on Kosrae fully functioning. In addition medical personnel are being recruited and trained.

In 1962 our Trust Territory budget was funded at a little over \$6 million. During the last several years the United States Government has averaged an annual appropriation of over \$150 million, including federal programmes.

(Mrs. McCoy, Special Representative)

While this represents a marked increase and a high level of financial assistance, not all problems are resolved by monetary solutions.

I have taken this brief look to provide us with some historical perspective of development during the past 20 years. While we have experienced many improvements, some problems still exist. We will continue to endeavour to correct and eliminate these and will co-operate with the emerging constitutional Governments in order jointly to accomplish our objectives of economic, social and educational advancement.

The new United States Administration has concurred with the draft Compact of Free Association as it has been initialled. Accordingly the Administering Authority has continued its efforts to phase out operations of the Trust Territory Administration that can be performed by the constitutional Governments without infringing upon the responsibility still incumbent on it as a result of the Trusteeship Agreement.

Last year Acting Deputy High Commissioner Daniel J. High reported on the transfer of many functions and the related reduction in headquarters personnel. I am pleased to note that at this time our headquarters personnel has been reduced to around 300 and will be further reduced by fiscal year 1983. Those remaining will be necessary in order to carry out the functions still required by the Trust Territory Administration.

I wish to call the Council's attention to the fact that much of the input for this year's annual report came directly from the constitutional Governments. This is certainly a marked change from 20 years ago.

While many functions have been transferred to the constitutional Governments, certain programmes continue to be the responsibility of the Administering Authority. I should like briefly to review these.

First, as the Council is aware, there is a severe world-wide economic and fiscal situation, which the Trust Territory has not escaped. We are endeavouring by every means at our disposal to lessen the impact of this harsh reality throughout our technical assistance programme and by providing advice and assistance when requested. The Administering Authority is quite aware of the need to establish the best possible infrastructure for economic development prior to termination. Considering present conditions, this requires sacrifices and dedicated efforts from all of us in the Trust Territory. It

(Mrs. McCoy, Special Representative)

is not an easy situation. I can assure the Council that within the resources available we are doing the best job possible with priorities established by the new constitutional Governments. Part of that effort is symbolized in the transfer of capital property to the new Governments. Since I have been in office we have turned over title to all ships used within the Trust Territory and formerly owned by the Trust Territory of the United States Government. We have continued the transfer of real estate formerly held as public land and have almost completed transfer of personal property formerly owned by the Trust Territory and the United States. The estimated value of these transfers exceeds \$60 million.

Our sea transportation division at Trust Territory headquarters has been phased out as the constitutional Governments have acquired the ships we formerly operated. While we participate in the Board of Marine Survey, the new Governments control and operate their own transportation system.

I do not wish to minimize the on-going responsibilities of the Administering Authority during this period. We recognize continued responsibility for the public safety and order of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory, and we are providing continued advice and guidance to judicial, police and legal agencies of the new Governments. A few recent events have indicated that this aspect of our responsibility is still very much in order.

The first successful criminal jury trial was recently conducted in the Marshall Islands before the Trust Territory High Court, using a member of the Trust Territory Attorney-General's staff as prosecutor. This indicates great progress in the awareness of the people of the need to participate in their judicial system. The Trust Territory Bureau of Investigation is providing valuable training and technical assistance to the new Governments as they work to set up viable public safety establishments.

We still provide through our technical assistance resources public-works architectural, financial and other expert assistance to the Governments requesting aid. This includes emergency assistance regarding power facilities, training in a variety of administrative skill areas, master planning and architectural assistance and co-ordination of projects involving more than one area.

(Mrs. McCoy, Special Representative)

The capital infrastructure programme continues in its final phases. Runways at Truk and Ponape are completed. Work is progressing on schedule in Yap, Kosrae and Palau, with all runways being surfaced except that in Kosrae. Substantial gains in power production and water distribution are being made as programmes discussed last year are being implemented. By the end of this year all major power-generating equipment in use in the Trust Territory will have been overhauled. New generators are on-line in Palau, and the Government of the Marshall Islands is through its own efforts about to complete a new and elaborate Bunker C power plant with the assistance of Great Britain and the concurrence of the Administering Authority. The Republic of Palau is following the Marshalls' example in exploring the possibility of doing the same. Work on road paving and sewer hook-up is progressing rapidly in all areas. The changes now taking place are dramatic. It is extremely important that both the Administering Authority and the constitutional Governments be concerned and plan for the future maintenance of these improvements.

In line with recent policy decisions of the Administering Authority in the area of foreign relations, the new Governments have increased their involvement with other nations of the Pacific and the world in general. This Council has in the past expressed concern about the lack of this type of development. I believe that the demonstrable increase in regional and international activity, including participation in programmes sponsored by several United Nations agencies, speaks for itself.

I can assure the Council that the Administering Authority, in conjunction with my office and the Office of Micronesian Status Negotiations, is doing all in its power to facilitate conclusion of the status talks and accomplish the early preparation for termination of trusteeship status. We will support every effort to ensure that the voters of the Trust Territory are well prepared for the decision that they will be called upon to make at that time. I cannot speak to the nature of that political education at this time, but I sincerely anticipate that it will be the product of an agreement between the Administering Authority and the constitutional Governments.

(Mrs. McCoy, Special Representative)

In summary, the Administering Authority is working itself out of existence as a Trust Territory Government administration. We laud the increasing competence of the new Governments and will continue to provide them with assistance as needed, but with as little interference as possible. While differences of opinion may arise, please be assured that in spite of these differences our administration will continue to work closely with and co-operate in the development of these new nations.

As an indication of the importance that the Trust Territory now enjoys in President Reagan's Administration, we now have an Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Territorial and International Affairs with direct involvement in the affairs of the Trust Territory and a new Presidential Representative for Status Negotiations, Ambassador Zeder, with previous experience in the Trust Territory. As a consequence, we have already found that communications have improved between our administration on Saipan and Washington and that decisions are being made much faster. I know that we can be certain that this level of interest will continue during what we all hope will be the short time ahead.

Mr. President, members of the Council and the Secretariat, I and my staff greatly appreciate this opportunity to share with you some of the progress and problems of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. I shall welcome your counsel and advice during the course of these meetings. I assure you that we shall co-operate fully and I look forward to making new acquaintances and to establishing good working relationships between the Trust Territory Administration and the Council.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the High Commissioner of the Territory for her kind words to me as well as for her useful statement, which has enlightened the members of the Council. Of course, we welcome here to the work of this forty-ninth session of the Trusteeship Council.

I now call on Governor Tenorio, of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Mr. TENORIO (Special Representative): Sir before making my statement I wish to extend my congratulations to you upon your election as President of the Council. We share the sentiment expressed earlier by various representatives on this Council concerning your most able leadership and we express our full confidence in that leadership. We should like to add our warm wishes and congratulations to the Vice-President of the Trusteeship Council.

(Mr. Tenorio, Special Representative)

I bring warm greetings from the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. I am honoured and privileged to appear before this body in my capacity as Governor of the Northern Mariana Islands. I wish to introduce the members of our delegation: the Honourable Eddie Pangelinan, our Washington representative; Senator Olympio Borja, the President of our Senate; Senator Benjamin Manglona, the Chairman of our Senate Fiscal Committee; Representative Martin Taisacan, the Chairman of our House Appropriations Committee and Mr. David Sablan, our Special Assistant for Planning and Budget.

I should like to report that our Commonwealth Government is five years old and that we have made significant progress in mastering the intricacies of self-government in political union with the United States of America.

As the Council knows, the Covenant between the Commonwealth and the United States of America ensures that financial and technical support shall be provided to develop the essential economic resources and infrastructure programmes that are needed to achieve a progressively higher standard of living and to bring our people to a respectable level within the American political family.

The Government of the Northern Marianas is grateful to the United States Government for its continued financial support under the Covenant in providing over \$28 million in the 1983 fiscal year for Government operations, capital improvement and economic development loan funds. Supplemental funding is now being considered for major projects such as health centres, power plants and water supply. Local revenues from taxes and fees amount to over \$15 million.

During the past year under review we have continued to place more emphasis on projects that will equip the Commonwealth with the basic infrastructure for its social and economic development. The improved infrastructure will encourage potential investors to start new industries in the Commonwealth, besides enhancing our vital tourist industry, which remains the corner-stone of our economy. We have over 100,000 tourists a year, despite the slow-down in the world economy, and we hope to improve that industry in the near future through the removal of existing restrictions on charter service and through increased scheduled flights between Japan and the Commonwealth. We are also promoting our islands in other Asian countries, the United States and even Europe. We now have flights originating in Saipan to Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

(Mr. Tenorio, Special Representative)

With substantial financial and technical aid from the United States we are upgrading our power supply with new power plants and more efficient generators, besides looking seriously into alternative sources of energy; improving the quality and quantity of our water supply through the addition of new wells and better management of our water resources; providing basic sanitary services through the construction of sewers and sewage-treatment plants and through solid waste management; upgrading our highways for safety, access and economic development; improving our airport and harbour facilities to promote commerce and industry, in particular tourism - we now have modern airport terminals and new airstrips at Saipan, Tinian and Rota; overhauling our local telecommunications system now that we have satellite communication with the outside world; and developing a beautiful park as a memorial to the American soldiers and Commonwealth citizens who gave their lives in the Northern Mariana Islands during the Second World War and as an attraction to tourists and residents for recreation and sport activities.

We are also upgrading our education and health delivery services in order to achieve social advancement. We now have a community college to provide appropriate training and education to meet our local needs and we continue to provide scholarships for our students to pursue their higher education off-island. The college graduates who are returning in increasing numbers to the islands are gradually replacing the off-island specialists in the Government and private sector. In the area of health services we are providing better health care as we are receiving the services of highly qualified physicians from the United States national health service at a fraction of the actual costs we should have to pay in the open market. We are also seeking assistance from organizations such as the World Health Organization to improve our public health services. We have made considerable programmes with the United States Department of Health and Human Services in the replacement of our inadequate hospital facilities by a modern health centre to meet our people's medical needs and to offset the ever-rising costs of medical referral to Guam and Honolulu. The new facility will provide in-patient nursing, ancillary and out-patient clinics, public health offices and clinics, dental clinics and support and supply facilities costing \$29.8 million. Construction can begin as early as February 1983 and can be completed as early as August 1984, depending on the funding schedule.

One matter of international importance which we feel merits the attention of the Trusteeship Council is the issue of the dumping of nuclear wastes in the Pacific Ocean. The position taken by the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas has been one of total opposition. I reaffirm that opposition and agree that nations that benefit from energy derived from nuclear plants must assume whatever dangers may exist from the disposal of the radioactive wastes. We consider ourselves very fortunate to live in a part of the world which is still unspoiled and we should like to preserve our environment and the living resources in it not only for ourselves but for the future generations of all countries who wish to visit us and enjoy the beauty of our islands.

(Mr. Tenorio, Special Representative)

Finally, there is one important matter affecting the Commonwealth and other Micronesian entities that should be settled as soon as possible. The Micronesian Claim Act of 1971 created a commission that made an award of about \$67 million to the Micronesian people. There remains outstanding a sum of \$12 million, for half of which amount the Government of Japan is responsible. The Micronesian people has waited 35 years for settlement of the \$12 million, and we ask your good offices in urging the Governments of Japan and the United States to settle this outstanding war claim.

Since we have been a self-governing entity for the past five years and the termination of Trusteeship did not occur in 1981 as originally planned, we urge that the Trusteeship Agreement be terminated at the earliest possible date so that our people may enjoy all the benefits of the Covenant, the most important of which is United States citizenship. We hope that termination of the Trusteeship Agreement will not signal the end of the friendship which has been established over the years. We look to the United Nations as a stabilizing force in a world which is becoming increasingly demanding and which is more than ever in need of the collective leadership of its Member nations.

Mr. President, with your permission, I should like to introduce the President of our Senate, Olympio Borja, to make an additional statement.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and Special Representative of the Administering Authority for his kind words to me personally.

In accordance with his wish, I now call on Mr. Olympio Borja, President of the Senate of the Northern Marianas and Special Representative of the Administering Authority.

Mr. BORJA (Special Representative): Mr. President, at the outset I wish to thank you very much for allowing me to address this Council on important issues and matters on behalf of the Third Commonwealth Legislature of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Before I proceed with my statement, I am honoured to endorse completely the heartfelt congratulatory greetings and best wishes conveyed to you, Sir, by the chief of our delegation, Governor Pedro Tenorio, on your election to the high position of President of the forty-ninth session of the Trusteeship Council, and to Mr. Marrack Goulding on his election as Vice-President of this body.

It is an honour and a privilege for me to be here today representing the Third Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature and the constituency it serves. Let me begin by saying that I find returning once again to this institution, for the sixth time at least, both as an adviser and a petitioner, over the last three decades, a most gratifying experience. I have the greatest respect for your membership and wish to acknowledge the many good deeds the United Nations has undertaken on our behalf since its inception. As a representative of the Third Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature, I wish to convey our gratitude to you for having served as the islands' fair arbiter until they achieved self-government a little over four years ago.

We are indeed grateful to the United States Government for its continuing efforts faithfully to discharge its obligations under the United Nations Trusteeship Agreement for the United States Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Let me now turn to the various issues which I have come to present to this body. We hope that this Council will take these issues seriously into consideration in the days immediately ahead as it considers the socio-economic and political aspirations of our people.

(Mr. Borja, Special Representative)

In the field of socio-economic aspirations, much of our effort now is geared towards building a sound economic base for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Although the task ahead is monumental, I must admit that, after years of being fed maudlin talk about the finer points of taking up economic studies for the Commonwealth totalling more than \$3 million, we have finally decided to take the bull by the horns, so to speak, and identify the economic constraints that inhibit any progressive strides in our efforts to achieve relative economic self-sufficiency.

In this connexion, we have established a good rapport with our local business community and have begun joint efforts to identify economic constraints that retard economic development programmes in the Commonwealth. We hope to be reporting to this body with regard to progress in this area when our representative at these important hearings addresses the Council next year. This means to say that we wish no longer to remain quiescent or complacent about our present economic posture. We wish to, and we will, be active participants in economic efforts to bolster the economy of the Commonwealth.

In the field of technical assistance, as in the past, we are still receiving technical assistance from the United States to enhance our local economy. It is our feeling, however, that the need for technical assistance in the Commonwealth greatly exceeds the amount of such assistance provided by the United States. For this reason, we wish to make it clear that we desire greater technical assistance from the United Nations. Such economic assistance could be provided principally in such areas as development banking, tourism, agriculture and fisheries. In addition to assistance in these economic areas, the Commonwealth needs the technical assistance of the United Nations in scientific, health and educational matters in order to achieve our goal of economic self-sufficiency.

As regards political aspirations and the termination of the Trusteeship, one important matter which has been brought to the attention of the Council in the recent past concerns our desire and that of the United States Government for an early termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. Our Legislature has just

(Mr. Borja, Special Representative)

recently passed a joint resolution reiterating its desire to terminate the Trusteeship. There are legitimate reasons why we have been consistent in bringing forward this issue for immediate settlement by the appropriate United Nations body.

Since January 1978, when our constitutional Government was instituted, our people, who are still technically Trust Territory citizens, have been given interim United States citizenship for purposes of employment, education, and so on, on the United States mainland or in other territorial possessions. We find this peculiar situation most frustrating in that for some purposes our people are considered "interim United States citizens" and for other purposes Trust Territory citizens.

The delay in the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement frustrates our people's desire to enjoy the full rights and privileges their fellow Americans now enjoy as United States citizens. A good case in point is the denial to Commonwealth citizens who enter the United States armed forces of the opportunity of becoming commissioned officers. This makes it almost senseless for any of our young men and women to choose a career in the United States forces. The solution to this and other problems is early termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

I am sure that the Council can appreciate and understand the frustrations of our people at this juncture, when they must, without a choice, endure the problems the current set of circumstances presents. The question of whether the Commonwealth can be accorded its desire to be treated separately from other Trust Territory entities should be addressed soon in the appropriate United Nations forum.

(Mr. Borja, Special Representative)

While we appreciate, and are mindful of, the complexities inherent in the political negotiations between the United States and the various Micronesian political entities, perhaps it would be prudent for a consensus to be reached to treat each entity on a case-by-case basis. We appeal to this body to help us achieve this desire at the earliest possible date, in the interest of allowing our people to enjoy the full rights, privileges and benefits set forth under the Covenant, especially United States citizenship.

Another issue which has become a prominent subject of discussion among our leaders, and our people as well, pertains to our Marine Sovereignty Act of 1980, which essentially declares our sovereign rights to all resources within 200 miles of our coast. This important law reflects our genuine interest in protecting our traditional rights to ocean resources in the seas that surround our islands. Although there are questions which need to be addressed to clarify the effect of the Magnuson Act as opposed to that of our Marine Sovereignty Act of 1980, we are confident that we can reach an amicable understanding with the United States on this issue.

In light of the fact that we are not equipped with the means to exert strong democratic pressures on the United States Government, we appeal to this Council to assist the Commonwealth in its efforts to participate in appropriate forums so as to be given the recognition it deserves respecting our sovereign rights to claim ownership of resources around our waters.

As it is now, our Marine Sovereignty Act is rendered ineffective because of the lack of a definitive interpretation with respect to whether we can declare our own 200-mile exclusive economic zone to claim what is traditionally ours. As a result, we can only watch the parade of negotiations between the various Micronesian political entities and foreign countries as they consummate agreements that guarantee them as much as \$2.5 million - as is the case in the agreement recently negotiated between the Federated States of Micronesia and the Government of Japan.

I should like to submit to this body that the greatest problem that hovers over the Commonwealth is the lack of sufficient financial resources, other than grant funds and what little revenue we now generate locally. While United States grant funds are guaranteed over a seven-year period, the guarantee will end as of fiscal year 1986. It stands to reason that the Commonwealth must look elsewhere for additional sources of revenue to supplement budgetary shortfalls. Right now, all roads lead to the rich ocean that surrounds our beautiful islands.

Because our islands are small in land area, it stands to reason that we will never be able to engage in any large-scale industrial production. Therefore, the alternative is to turn to the vast ocean, for we are only too aware that our economic survival is and will be contingent upon our reaping our share of the vast riches in our waters. Our seeking the Council's blessing in this area is legitimate, and we ask the Council to exert its influence on our behalf before the appropriate United Nations forums. We are only asking for what is rightfully ours by birth. We wish to have it no other way.

Another area of major interest to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands relates to the United States Government's right to exercise the lease option for various parcels of land in the Commonwealth, specifically Tinian land, as spelled out under the technical agreement in the Covenant. Our records are replete with requests for a definitive word from the United States Government on its plans relative to the Tinian lease option, but those requests have been to no avail.

The basic indecision on the part of the Government leaves us in a very precarious situation. For as long as that indecision hovers over the Commonwealth we will never be able to formulate economic plans for the island. It is very exasperating to be left in limbo when we know that those fertile lands could be put to good use. The sum of money agreed to under the technical agreement is not accruing any interest for the Commonwealth, in that the funds are still to be appropriated by the United States Congress.

The right of the Government to exercise the option to lease Tinian land expires next year. We wish to register our disappointment at having been left without definite word on whether the United States Congress will appropriate money for the lease or on what use the Department of Defense has in mind for lands in the Marianas. I say that the Commonwealth cannot afford the luxury of having to wait for another year. We must be given the definite answer soon, for planning purposes. "The tide waits for no man" is an old adage which is true of our situation in the Commonwealth, in that we are fully committed to advancing our economic posture before guaranteed funding under the Covenant becomes competitive in fiscal year 1986.

(Mr. Borja, Special Representative)

We solicit the assistance of the Council in getting the United States Government to issue a definitive position for or against the lease option on the lands in the Marianas. Our people in Tinian too are mindful of their role of growing together with the rest of the islands in the Commonwealth.

As to nuclear dumping, this crucial issue is not, as we all know, a new subject to any of us. I must mention the very grave danger which my people face from the threatened pollution of our marine environment by the dumping of nuclear waste into the nearby sea, as was recently proposed by the Government of Japan. This threat is particularly significant because of the traditional importance of the ocean to my people and its great reliance upon it for food and other materials.

The Trusteeship Council has already heard of the opposition of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to the dumping or storage of nuclear wastes in the northern Pacific Ocean. Radioactive waste in the northern Pacific Ocean will damage our environment because of the probable leakage of radioactive materials which could be transported by ocean currents or migratory fish to the waters of the Commonwealth. This creates a real threat to the health, safety and traditions of our citizens. Many other areas of the Pacific have opposed this plan. We cannot understand why the Japanese would propose to do this. Of all the people in the world, the Japanese know best the harmful effects of radioactivity. We call upon this Council, the United Nations and all States that share our concern to use their influence to persuade the Government of Japan to declare that it will permanently refrain from placing our people and marine resources in danger. We call upon the United Nations to declare the Pacific Ocean an area permanently free of nuclear wastes.

It is my honour now to extend to this Council our sincere appreciation for being very supportive in the resolution of title II of the Micronesian war claims. While title II has been resolved by the United States, title I remains a long-standing issue, and efforts to get the Governments of Japan and the United States to pay their share have been unsuccessful. However, we are hopeful that further negotiations will solve this problem.

The unwillingness of the Government of Japan to put up its share has compounded the frustrations of our people. Although this is the situation with respect to the position of the Government of Japan, we must not think it will never change, for history will show that we never had any role in the hostilities of the Second

World War. I need not elaborate on the sufferings experienced by our people as a result of two giants fighting, crushing innocent people on their own soil.

Both nations have the moral obligation to resolve this issue once and for all so that it becomes a closed chapter in our long history of constant pleading to see its final settlement. We understand that both Governments signed a bilateral agreement in 1969 which absolves the Government of Japan from any further responsibility. We still maintain, however, that this issue could be settled amicably with the assistance of the membership of this body.

We applaud the boldness of the United States House of Representatives Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, which wanted to see passage of an authorization to pay 50 per cent of title I without its being contingent on the Government of Japan putting up its share of the responsibility. This is a realistic approach and it is our hope to bring this issue again to the two Governments, specifically the Government of Japan, and urge them to grant us our desire to bring justice to our people and see the final resolution of this issue once and for all. There remains a balance of about \$24 million under title I for the whole Micronesian people. We solicit the kind assistance of the Council in order that we might resolve this issue as expeditiously as possible.

(Mr. Borja, Special Representative)

In summary, the Commonwealth has for the first time begun working in concert with the private sector to identify the local or even federal constraints which must be removed to establish a healthy atmosphere for private investment in the Commonwealth that will enable America's newest territory to establish a decent economic base before Covenant funds become competitive commencing in fiscal year 1986.

We solicit the support of this Council with respect to the several areas of importance to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands with which I dealt earlier. We seek special consideration in those areas, since they have not been given the attention they need and because they are vital for the economic survival of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

We again express our appreciation of the opportunity to address this body to report on the progress and problems of our new constitutional Government. We thank you for having been our fair arbiter for many years. We feel confident that with your co-operation our concerns will be given the priority they deserve, both by the United Nations and by the Government of the United States of America.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.