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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 1 June 1971, at 3 p.m.

President:

Mr. LANE

(United Kingdom)

- Examination of annual reports of the Administering Authorities on the administration of Trust Territories, for the year ended 30 June 1970: (continued)
 - (a) Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

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AGENDA ITEM 4

EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES ON THE
ADMINISTRATION OF TRUST TERRITORIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1970:

(a) TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1716; T/1719; T/L.1160) (continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Edward Johnston, High Commissioner for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the Special Representative of the Administering Authority, and Senator Petrus Tun and Representative Sasauo Haruo, Special Advisers to the Special Representative, took places at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT: The Council will now continue the general debate on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Mr. WANG (China): Another year has passed since the Trusteeship Council last discussed conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Having studied carefully the annual report of the Administering Authority and other relevant information and having listened with great attention to the oral reports made by the representatives of the Administering Authority, my delegation has come to the conclusion that the Administering Authority has carried out its obligations under the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement by promoting the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Trust Territory with increasing efforts during the period under consideration. Those efforts were reflected in the continued large appropriations made by the United States Congress of the funds necessary for the various development programmes of the Territory and also in the promptness with which the Administration had acted in response to the recommendations of the 1970 United Nations Visiting Mission.

Among the actions taken by the Administration, the first that has been drawn to our attention was the improvement in the process of the formulation of the Territorial budget. It is gratifying to note that the elected representatives of the Micronesian people are now allowed to participate more intimately in the preparation of the budget at the territorial as well as district levels. The new

budgetary process, as reported to the Council by the Special Representative, no doubt gives much more influence to the Micronesian Legislatures in determining the priority and the direction of the development programmes to satisfy Micronesian needs. In the meantime, we are happy to note that the Fourth Congress of Micronesia passed its first income tax act, which will soon become effective. My delegation welcomes this act as an important step toward statehood. The locally-generated new revenues under this act will augment the Congress of Micronesia's financial power and will enable it to supplement the deficiencies which it may find in the budget of the Administration.

(Mr. Wang, China)

We also noted with interest the other legislative measures enacted by the Congress of Micronesia, including a single job classification and pay plan. The 1970 Visiting Mission discussed the latter subject quite lengthily in its report to the Council. My delegation fully endorses the five points the Mission made in paragraph 512 of that report. The merit of the newly enacted pay plan must be judged in the light of these points.

My delegation was distressed to learn that the work of the Fourth Congress of Micronesia was disrupted by a fire which destroyed its meeting chambers. The material loss, of course, should not arouse serious concern. But we are concerned over the fact that the fire was the work of a deliberate arsonist. We hope this was just an isolated irresponsible act, which does not portend a trend of future events in the Territory. We do not believe destructive acts or violence would serve the interests of Micronesia.

We have also noted the United States legislative activities concerning the issue of war and post-secure claims. We are pleased with the progress that has been made on this issue. As the settlement of these claims has long been overdue, we hope that the legislative actions required will be completed soon so that the payments for those claims can be realized without any further delay.

Turning to the future status of the Trust Territory, my delegation is disappointed that the talks between the Micronesian Status Delegation and the representatives of the Administering Authority did not produce any common ground for agreement. We noted with satisfaction, however, that both sides are prepared to resume discussions sometime later this summer.

It may be recalled that when the 1970 Visiting Mission expressed its feeling that it would be desirable for the people of Micronesia to determine their future status sooner rather than later, the Mission was cognizant of the reluctance of many of the Micronesians to contemplate any early change in the status of the Territory. The Council has now again heard the feelings and views of the Micronesians towards the future status question presented to it by the two Special Advisers. One particular remark made by the Honourable Sasauo Haruo has drawn our special attention. The Congressman, acknowledging that Micronesia has reached

(Mr. Wang, China)

a crucial point in its history where it must soon decide its status in relation to the other members of the world community, said that in the meanwhile:

"... we do not wish to be pushed too quickly into that position without being able to consider carefully the many facets and consequences of such a move." (1372nd meeting, p. 67).

My delegation fully understands the feeling expressed in this remark. We are convinced that the Micronesians have every right to take the time they need for preparing themselves to make the final choice. Any future status should be entered into in accordance with their freely expressed wish, not as a result of pushing from any source, quickly or slowly. The responsibility of this Council is to see that the Administering Authority carries out its obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement and the Charter. It is not to push the people of the Trust Territory into anything contrary to their wishes.

The Honourable Petrus Tun very rightly pointed out in his opening remarks that the exercise of self-determination must be preceded by extensive political education for the great mass of Micronesian people in every walk of life. From what the Honourable Senator told the Council, one can draw only one conclusion: either the political education programmes in the Territory are far inadequate or the people are not very much interested in these programmes. Whatever the case is, the need for improvement in this area seems to be most obvious. We think that, in this respect, the Congress of Micronesia has as much responsibility as the Administration. It may be desirable for the Congress to devote more resources at its disposal to intensify these programmes and to arouse public interest in them. It would not be enough to start an intensified political education programme only after the alternative to be put before the people was agreed or after the proposed constitution drafted. We think now is the time for people all over the Territory to get acquainted with the meaning of such terms as "independence", "free associated State" and "commonwealth" and their implications, as well as what is going on in the talks between their representatives and the Administering Authority. For a true act of self-determination to be possible it is essential that the people should not only understand fully what they do at the polls in a plebiscite, but they should be able to make their opinions known to their elected representatives at the present stage.

(Mr. Wang, China)

The question of the future political status of Micronesia is complicated by the special situation in the Mariana District. The Council has been aware of that situation for many years, but has said very little about it. The situation apparently gained new magnitude and momentum this year. The 1970 Visiting Mission, having paid great attention to this issue, found it not appropriate to express an opinion on the issue, except that, like the previous Visiting Missions, it considered that there could be no question of the Marianas being separated from the rest of the Territory while the Trusteeship Agreement is still in force. The representative of the United States has made clear the position of the Administering Authority towards this issue in his opening statement at the Council. My delegation thinks the Administering Authority's position is well taken, in the light of its committed obligations.

At this juncture it may be useful to recall a remark made by the 1968 Political Status Commission of the Congress of Micronesia. Commenting on the question of the reintegration of the Marianas, the political Status Commission said in its final report submitted to the Congress of Micronesia in July 1969:

"... the question of reintegration must be resolved by the United States and the United Nations, for it was they, not the Political Status Commission, which had brought the districts of Micronesia together." (T/1707, para. 560).

One could hardly argue against this statement, since it was the United Nations and the United States that brought the Marianas and the other districts together to be administered as a single Trust Territory.

My delegation feels that the Council cannot treat this question as if it did not exist. In the interests of the Micronesian people at large and the people of the Mariana District in particular, the Council is duty bound to pronounce its position on this issue.

(Mr. Wang, China)

Before the Council can do so, answers to two questions must be found: one, whether or not a Trusteeship Agreement can be terminated in respect to a certain part of the Trust Territory while it remains in force over the rest of the Territory; and two, whether or not, in a Trust Territory like the Pacific Islands, which spreads over such a vast area of the ocean, the people of a part of the Territory can choose a course separate from the rest of the Territory.

It appears to my delegation that the Trusteeship Council will have to be ready to give answers to these questions by the time it meets next year, unless the course of events should take such a turn as to make that unnecessary.

Mr. BLANC (France) (interpretation from French): Once again contrast, contradiction and even paradox, stamp Micronesia. Once again, the observer will ask himself: Are we dealing with an immense area the size of the United States, or with insular crumbs of islands scattered over the Pacific with an area of less than 2,000 kilometres? Or with its 100,000 inhabitants, is it a small provincial city whose town hall might be at Nouakchott, its steeples at Santa Isabel and its piers at Khartoum? Is this a Territory emerging from under-development, whose per capita income is much higher than that of several European States, or is it an archipelago at subsistence level living on coconut products? Is it a very developed country, with a wide economy, or is it one that is lagging behind with its economy stagnating, one which cannot repair the damage done by a single cyclone? These questions could go on and on. The answers, in one direction or another, would also be good answers and would be based on different justifications.

In the same way, we could rightly praise the unity of the Micronesians, but at the same time, find some apprehension at the fragmentation of the Territory, as we see that the population is prepared to wait for, or to press for, self-determination.

To explain this confusion we must go back a few years. It appeared then that in a short period of time the volume of aid from abroad, in resources and in manpower, had increased considerably, while in the political field, the elected, hardly having begun their task, were wondering about the future of the Territory. Only three years elapsed between the birth of the first

Micronesian Congress and the constitution of the First Joint Committee charged with examining the possible different kinds of status for the Islands. The new Senators and Representatives had not finished their apprenticeship before they were going around the world seeking a perfect constitution and a model political system.

When the Commission submitted its first report two years ago, its authors thought that the procedure would go rather rapidly. But when we think of the future of a country, the clearest and most methodical reports are not sufficient. They are merely background material on which we will base the construction of the future. There are two obligations: first, we must have a common view with the authorities that will be responsible for administering the country in the financial analysis, and then we must be sure that the political awareness of the population is sufficiently alerted so that they will have a well-defined goal.

While the conversations in Saipan and in Washington marked time, in Micronesia the Visiting Mission sent by the Trusteeship Council in March 1970 noted that "a relatively small number of persons were prepared to discuss this vital question" -- the future of the country. The petitions which reached us showed some disarray among the Micronesians. Documents T/COM.10/53 and 56 to 61 showed a preference for the association system as defined by the Status Commission of the Congress, and rejected the status of commonwealth which was approved, on the contrary, by one district legislature, that of the Marianas, in its communication T/COM.10/L.55. The legislature of Palau, in resolution 64, was against this, and we received from Saipan a threat of secession pure and simple, by force.

In this complex picture, the elections of last November introduced a note of stability. Most of the Representatives and the Senators were there and the electors wanted continuity. In an island which was, unfortunately, the victim of a cyclone, we find that the members of the Congress helped to develop a sense of territorial unity among their people. Although it is an uncontestable sign of uneasiness in one of the archipelagos, the attitude of some of the elected officials of the Marianas who refused to go to Truk does not diminish the significance of this initiative.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

Since I am led to mention the election of last autumn, I must ask whether the term of office of the representatives is not too short. True it is based on the metropolitan model, but in a country which is at the beginning of democracy the electors should not be called to the polls too often and those elected should have sufficient time to become aware of public matters and to discharge their duties effectively.

To build a country on a myriad of atolls calls for a certain constancy in the legislative and executive fields, as well as in education and political development.

Information which we have gathered gives a complex and contradictory picture. There is clear progress, or exceptionally rapid progress, on the one hand, and there is the persistence of certain shortcomings on the other.

Let us look at the value of exports. It swerved upwards between 1969 and 1970, going from \$2.8 million to \$4.1. But in 1966 it was already \$3 million; in 1961 it was over \$2 million; and in 1957 it was \$1.6 million. In short, it doubled in ten years.

In tonnage, the copra sales have not made much progress since 1961: 14,000 tons in 1961 and 15,600 tons last year. The changes in prices are the reason for this. We must point out that we are dealing with a market price, because the purchase price in 1970 was \$112.50, while it was already \$110 for grade 1 nine years earlier. The statement of the Special Representative showed that, as expected, improvement in inter-island communications had not been slow to produce results since the production of copra increased by two million tons over the last two years.

As far as scrap iron is concerned, we are happy to see that it has lost the amazing rank it had in the Micronesian economy. From being the second export product in 1961 with \$130,000, and in 1966, with \$238,000 it has finally dropped to fourth place with \$53,000.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

Meanwhile fish move to second place, a circumstance with regard to which it is difficult to express adequate gratification in so obviously maritime a territory. Sales amounted to only \$65,000 in 1961 and \$78,000 in 1966; today they are worth nearly \$1 million. This remarkable development has not, however, put an end to a quite abnormal situation. Purchase of canned fish, which rose from \$200,000 in 1961 to \$960,000 in 1970 and are still more or less equal to Micronesian sales, and it is to be feared moreover that part at least of those canned goods have been produced from fish caught in the waters around Micronesia.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

The costly efforts in various areas -- the struggle against unemployment, fisheries training, investigation on baiting areas, studies of starfish, the activities of the Van Camp Sea Food Company -- should bear fruit in the years to come and we should then see the tonnage of fish little by little reach 35,000 tons, which it is true was obtained under completely different conditions before the world war.

Moreover, the picture of over-all importations calls for comment and tends to arouse certain misgivings. This agricultural Territory imported in 1970 \$7 million worth of foodstuffs -- alcoholic beverages and tobacco alone accounting for \$2 million.

To be sure, the proportion of foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco in the Territory's imports has appreciably diminished since ten years ago: it then represented nearly three fourths; by 1966 it was brought down to less than two thirds, and in 1970 to less than one half. That is an encouraging result. However, the growth in total value of the consumption of those products, which could be replaced by local products or which are harmful to the health of the inhabitants, should be checked. In this connexion the Special Representative has given us reassuring information, since the production of garden vegetables has been multiplied by ten and that of poultry by three in only eighteen months.

There is also an encouraging sign in foreign trade -- the rapid development of the purchase of building materials. It was \$230,000 in 1961, ten years ago, \$956,000 five years later, and \$2.3 million last year -- that is to say, ten times more than it was during 1961. The same can be said of petroleum products -- and, therefore, of the consumption of energy -- which have undergone an astonishingly rapid growth, as follows: \$150,000, \$313,000 and \$3.2 million, that is, twenty-one times more than in 1961.

In itself the considerable deficit in foreign trade is indeed not an unfavourable sign to the extent that the massive growth in purchases is the numerical reflection of an effort at development. The total value of imports, having been maintained at \$4 million from 1957 to 1961, reached \$7 million in 1965, \$9 million in 1966, \$14 million in 1969 and \$21 million in 1970, bringing the deficit from \$2.4 million in 1957 to nearly \$17 million in 1970.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

In all these trade statistics -- whose dryness I hope the Council will forgive -- tourism has not been taken into account although it has become the Territory's second highest source of revenue amounting to \$1.3 million, that is, almost half the revenue derived from copra. In this field, forecasts had to be revised as soon as they were made. The Nathan report forecast an estimated 30,000 visitors in 1972; there were already 31,000 in 1970 and it is now estimated that in 1972 30,000 visitors will go to Micronesia. First-class hotels are being built in each district and aerial links are multiplying. This is a new resource that has been rapidly and efficiently exploited.

However, certain gloomy areas persist in this over-all picture. First, it is the Marianas which are benefiting most from the development of tourism. We would not see any disadvantage in this if it were not, administratively speaking, the sixth part of the Territory. Approximately four fifths of the visitors have chosen this Archipelago. We would hope that the development of the Yap and Palau museums, the creation of four natural parks and seven historical parks, proposed by the Commission on sites, will contribute to a desirable diversification of tourism.

On the other hand, Japan does not yet seem to occupy the position which its wealth and its proximity to the Island should lead it to occupy. The number of Japanese tourists seems to have tripled between 1968 and 1969, but it represents only slightly over a third of that of American tourists coming from much farther away.

Finally, in Micronesia as in other developing countries, the risk remains that tourism will benefit a marginal category of the population, that the indigenous people will occupy subordinate positions and that the hotel industry will consume imported products and, consequently, will not open new markets for agriculture or local cattle-raising.

Although sales of pepper and cocoa are statistically negligible, my delegation considers very encouraging the results already obtained by the Territory's services in the development of these two crops. In particular, the system of loans for the purchase of fertilizer by producers of pepper has been retained. However fertile certain soils may be and however reluctant certain farmers to conserve and enrich them, it is necessary sooner or later to envisage having recourse to fertilizer.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

In this connexion my delegation wonders whether it would not be possible to raise cattle in palm-tree areas. That custom is widespread in other Archipelagos of the Pacific, where it has contributed to the manuring of the soil and to the wealth of the peasants. The considerable efforts of the Administration in cattle-raising seem to have been concentrated on pigs and poultry outside of the Mariana Islands. As far as concerns the interesting experiment of the Micronesian Development Company at Tinian, the indigenous population does not seem to have been associated in it. Undoubtedly, an effort should equally be made as regards the water buffalo, as much for a source of meat as for draught animals, as they are already so utilized in Ponape and Palau.

These speculations on agriculture and cattle-raising will of course not be realized unless satisfactory solutions are found to the land tenure problem. Since 1969 the Administration, with the full support of the Congress which has passed the land law of 1966, began a wide-scale operation which was intended to lead to the registering of all private and public lands. The Land Commissions and, at a level closer to those being administered, the registering teams, began the work of accomplishing the juridical tasks, while the land surveyors of the Bureau of Land Management and of the United States Geological Survey were engaged in the topographic work. The opinion was expressed here two years ago that the work could be finished in June 1970. But the technical difficulties of such an operation and the reticence of the interested parties -- the customary land-holders -- were not taken into account. We know now that it will be five to seven years before the task is completed.

Will everything then be solved? That is not certain, and for many reasons. First -- and the experience of other developing countries shows this -- because it is very difficult to get the peasants to inform the land services of changes that may have taken place in the exercise of their rights; because the status of the Micronesians is not clearly defined and there can be confusion in future, because, moreover, there exists a certain contradiction between the principles of modern law which are used in the registering of land and the customary rules which determine the nature and the extent of the Micronesian land tenure rights. The 1970 report, for example, indicates that transfers of property between the indigenous population are not made in written form but only orally.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

Reasons of another nature lead us to entertain certain doubts on the final success of the reform. The vast land-holding and technical operation which is presently being carried out represents a very costly investment -- and that is sometimes disproportionate to the actual value of the lands -- which has been undertaken, directly or not, by the administering Power. But the up-dating of the registers and the surveys will also require considerable sums. Will the Territory budget be able to support this?

And then, the question of public domains which will not have been solved. Of course, to a large extent it is a false problem because the indigenous people very often forget that the public domains belong not to the administering Power -- not to a distant country -- but to the Territory, that is, to the Micronesian people. But the fact remains that the extent of this domain has provoked and continues to provoke, as we say every year, a certain discontent among the indigenous people. Everyone knows that about 60 per cent of the lands in the Territory are considered as being public, but this mean percentage reflects very different situations in the various Districts, dropping as it does respectively to 4, 13 and 17 per cent in Yap, Truk and the Marshals, and rising to 66, 68 and even 90 per cent in Ponape, Palau and the Marianas.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

It is of small importance, then, that the responsibility for this state of affairs belongs to administrations prior to 1945: when the land reaches that size the public authorities necessarily have a surplus and, without compromising the future, without losing sight of the fact that those lands already belong to the Micronesian community, they can envisage a reduction of the holdings which will bring certain funds back into economic circulation and, in certain regions, will help to reduce the pressure of people on the land. It is in this way that the Administration already seems to have undertaken its actions.

An even cursory glance at the demographic statistics leads us to ask about the capability of certain districts to nourish the population. The density of Truk is 260 inhabitants per square kilometre; that of the Marshalls, 115. If we leave out the urban centres of Moen and Majura the figures drop to approximately 220 and fifty. The first is exceptionally high for an extensively agricultural area; the second is not negligible either.

Undoubtedly the 1961 report reminded us, ten years ago, that before coming into contact with the Western world the Marianas and Palau each had 50,000 inhabitants; Yap and Ponape had 40,000. But, apart from the fact that those figures were calculated on unverifiable bases, nothing can assure us that Micronesia, which was overpopulated in the nineteenth century, was not under-fed. Can it be said that the rate of population growth has therefore reached such a level that birth-control campaigns should be launched throughout the Territory, as appears to have been the case in the Mortlocks, in Ujelang, Ebeye and Kili? It is not certain, however, because all we have is a demographic documentation which remains to be verified, whereas the age figures listed in the report show that only 11 per cent of the population is above the age of fifty-five and that, consequently, the mean life expectancy of the Micronesians is relatively short. The mortality index of 5.4 per 1,000 given on page 114 of the report would seem to be one of the lowest in the world.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

Should we regret, furthermore, that the inhabitants of the Territory are very keen on urban life? The least result of this has been that 69,000 people -- that is, 7 per cent of the population -- are near a hospital or some sort of health centre. But this rapid urbanization illustrates and at the same time reinforces the artificial nature of the way in which the population is divided up. An abnormally high proportion belong to the public service: of 12,436 wage earners 7,239 are agents of the State or Territory. Urbanization is the reflection of a certain degree of bureaucratization of the population.

This phenomenon should come as no surprise in a Territory where economic development is expected first and foremost from the massive injection of public capital. It has already been said that the imbalance between actual earnings and subsidies in the Territory's budget has reached absolutely unwarranted precautions: in 1971, out of \$55 million, 52.7 came from outside. It has not always been that way, since United States aid has gone from \$5-7 million between 1956 and 1962, to \$16-, \$22- and \$23 million between 1963 and 1966 and then \$27-, \$37-, \$41- and \$52 million in the last four years. Before recalling the problems which are engendered by such an influx of subsidies, my delegation would like to praise the Administering Authority, which, after having for some time abandoned the Territory to a state of mediocrity, has decided to devote considerable sums to transforming it. In the same way, we should like to see the problem of war claims, which, after being so long neglected, was tackled head-on and resolved on paper by the Japanese-American Agreement, to be solved concretely by the adoption of the laws which are at present being considered in the United States Congress. That would appease the legitimate bitterness of claimants, many of whom have been waiting for more than twenty-five years.

Returning now to the budget itself, it can be found today that this generosity is the source of new difficulties: the disproportion between the actual resources of the Territory and the subsidies from outside is such that the population is wondering about the usefulness of improving its fiscal system. The reactions provoked in the past by the modest project for setting up an income tax reflect very precisely the feeling of the inhabitants about it. It is to the credit of the Micronesian parliamentarians that they have created

(Mr. Blanc, France)

a tax which will undoubtedly be an extra burden on the tax-payer but which will attest to the sense of responsibility of the population and, to a certain extent, will also show, better than any speeches could do, that people's ability to govern itself.

However, the structure of the budget from actual earnings could be remodelled with some gain: the 10 per cent tax on copra, as we have already said, means that the purchasing price to the producer must be reduced; on the other hand, the low nature of the import taxes leads to the consumption of foreign products which at times are economically useless, if not harmful, and discourages the inhabitants of the Territory from marketing agricultural and local industrial products which compete with the imported products.

Furthermore, the Administration deliberately, it seems, ensures that the local revenues are of benefit to the district budgets rather than to the Territory-wide budget. This policy has the merit of making for decentralization in a country where, quite obviously, it is necessary; but it would appear, particularly in the case of highways, that the district authorities either have misgivings about their financial responsibility or merely are anxious that the Territory budget and external subsidies should be left to defray the expenses which they consider to be too burdensome to the district itself.

The report of the last visiting mission and that of the administering Power show, moreover, that secondary communities, if they spend too much on administrative expenses, are nevertheless very vital organisms. It is a fact that the Administration has spared no effort to awaken in the population a sense of civic duty. It has increased -- perhaps somewhat over-increased when the elected representatives are too numerous for a poor community -- the number of representative bodies. In this connexion it would be a good idea to reexamine the situation in the case of municipalities the revenues of which hardly cover their operating expenses. But the general orientation of the policy regarding local communities remains fundamentally sound.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

In the economic field, the Administration has in the same way increased the number of co-operatives. My delegation would like to say how favourably it was impressed by the number of members of co-operatives: more than 10,000 -- in other words, about one-quarter of the active population. We were no less struck by the number of credit unions, while at the same time noticing that half of them, however, were made up of civil servants.

This awakening to democratic life and to civic duty through the creation of organisms in which the Micronesians can learn to manage their own affairs could be speeded up by organizing political education campaigns with the assistance of the teaching body. My delegation is gratified to have heard the Special Representative give us very precise information to the effect that, thanks to an excellent radio network, the creation of which we cannot praise too highly, such campaigns have already been undertaken and are to be developed in the future. We should like next year to learn that progress has been achieved in this field.

That task, which should also comprise some action in the field, will be made much easier because the Territory enjoys a relatively high literacy rate for a developing country. With approximately 28,000 children in school -- and it will be useful to know why this figure has dropped slightly since last year -- Micronesia has succeeded in enrolling nearly all children in the five to fifteen age group -- that is, 30,000 individuals, according to the census.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

Furthermore, if 85 per cent of the young people between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four can read English we can consider the Pacific Islands already on the way to total literacy.

The percentage of students in the eighth grade, at the end of primary education, which have been admitted to secondary education can also be envied throughout the rest of the world because it in fact exceeds 63 per cent.

On the other hand we as yet have little information on the way the 870 pupils who completed their secondary education in 1970 will manage to find either scholarships to a foreign university -- in 1970 the total for all years amounted to only 570 -- or a position in the higher establishments in the Territory, particularly Community College and the nursing school.

Despite the Micronization of instruction -- a process initiated some years ago -- the number of non-indigenous teachers remains very high. It appears there are 350 for 210 schools. It would be desirable if as soon as possible the entire teaching staff at the elementary level could be Micronesian.

The considerable decrease in the members of the Peace Corps during the past year would then be entirely justified. For the time being, my delegation is very interested to learn that the reduction in the number of volunteers, the size of which attracted our attention, is attributable not to the desire to get rid of those collaborators -- who are sometimes unfledged if always noble in their aspirations -- of the Territory's Administration but the desire to use their abilities to best advantage.

The Territory has also overtaken the developing countries in educational matters. Once they are literate the indigenous people will be better able to understand the technical advice of the agricultural engineers, veterinarians and fishery experts and to benefit from a political education campaign and make their contributions to an Administration whose Micronesian character is being increasingly emphasized.

At this point my delegation wishes to express satisfaction at learning that throughout all the archipelagos the District Chiefs, or at least their deputies, are indigenous people. When we are aware of the role played in a developing country by the head of the administrative unit and the prestige he enjoys in the eyes of the population we can gauge the feeling we had when we saw indigenous people heading districts. Without having the same

(Mr. Blanc, France)

psychological effect, a similar movement to replace expatriates by indigenous people at the head of services shows that the evolution of the public service is keeping pace with that of other institutions.

In these circumstances it does not appear to be necessary for the elected representatives of the Territory to interfere in the functioning of an Administration that is becoming increasingly "micronesian. In a country that is scattered, underpopulated, composite and underdeveloped, to ask that a large number of administrative nominations be subject to the approval of the Congress would be tantamount to opening the door to all sorts of pressures. It also might tend to compromise the freedom of action of heads of departments. Undoubtedly it would be better to lean towards the setting up of local cabinets.

The educational progress that has made possible the progressive Micronization of public services may also have made possible the emergence of a trade-union movement. Experience in other countries has shown that trade union leaders are very often the first to throw aside tribalism and function on a territorial level, provided they are not moved by extraprofessional considerations. For that reason they can play quite an important part in the construction of a young country. Undoubtedly, in the Pacific Islands, as we have been reminded, the great majority of functionaries is composed of civil servants. But that particular aspect of the Territory definitely should not prohibit the setting up of trade unions.

Is education in Micronesia sufficiently oriented towards the outside? If we read the reports we may entertain certain doubts on that point. In order to arouse the interest of young people in what is happening in the rest of the world -- and in particular in the Pacific -- it would be desirable for the secondary curricula to give a larger place to the teaching of history, geography, political science and one of the languages spoken in that part of the world. Undoubtedly, since English is not the mother tongue of the indigenous people, Micronesians would have to learn a third language at the secondary level. But they would thus be acting according to a custom already widespread in a number of other countries.

(Mr. Blanc, France)

There are 100,000 island-dwellers who for some years now, and particularly in the last two years, have been the object of a number of solicitudes on the part of the Administering Authority. In order to overcome the obstacles -- geographical, traditional and climatic -- that stand in the way of their progress they receive dozens of millions of dollars in subsidies and hundreds of experts whose job it is to administer them. If a problem arises a solution is immediately sought using the most modern and costly of procedures. Is marine fauna being threatened? Research is immediately undertaken and very often the cost is much greater than total earnings in the Territory itself. Are settlements being populated at a rate disquieting for political equilibrium? They are given model town-planning programmes worthy of future metropolitan countries. Are the indigenous peoples divided by land claims? A general cadaster is set up taking into account all the topographical data and photographic methods. So much attention and so much munificence and largess should bear fruit. If applied particularly to the least privileged of the Territory they should help to reduce disparities among districts and to diminish tensions inside the country, some of which can no doubt be found to be rooted in remote periods of history.

The expected new wealth should at least in part replace external aid and thus increase the sense of responsibility that is particularly important today, when the Micronesians, through their elected representatives, are passionately -- and perhaps at the same time hesitantly -- expressing interest in their future. All this shows that both politically and economically the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is engaged in a very complex process of evolution whose nature and speed will of course be determined by the Administering Power after it has ascertained the wishes of the population.

I think those considerations give us a clear indication of the spirit in which this Council must in a few days consider its subsequent recommendations.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Mr. WATANABE (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization): Thank you, Mr. President, for giving me the opportunity to present our organization's comments on the educational development in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

By the terms of its Constitution, UNESCO is called upon to "give fresh impulse to popular education and the spread of culture" and to "collaborate in the work of advancing the mutual knowledge and understanding of peoples". It is in order to meet this constitutional mandate that UNESCO has studied with utmost care and interest the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 June 1970 on which basis we have the following comments to make.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization noted with satisfaction the general education policy described in the report of the Administering Authority to provide educational opportunities for all Micronesians which is consonant with our organization's goal of realizing the right to education. Both quantitative expansion and qualitative improvement reported for 1970 appeared to be satisfactory. Equally satisfactory is the effort made towards transcribing nine local languages so that some instruction may be done in local languages.

With respect to elementary schools, an analysis of enrolment figures points to a transfer of pupils from non-public to public schools. At high school level, the work carried out in the fields of aptitude test development and of curriculum development, including one Territory-wide workshop, points to a systematic effort for upgrading education.

At the higher level the reported increase in the number of students up to a figure of 595 is encouraging. The development of pre-school education with special reference to the Head Start programme aimed at correcting social disadvantages is a good example of a practical attempt to democratize education.

In technical education, the increase in enrolment appears to be fast.

Regarding teachers the continued policy of upgrading them seems to be sound. Plans for establishing a unified salary scale for Micronesian and non-Micronesian personnel is a cause for satisfaction, although it is not clear from the report whether the proposal to this effect has been adopted yet.

(Mr. Watanabe, UNESCO)

The initiation of an educational television programme to supplement radio broadcasting educational films is a significant development. More information concerning the language or languages in which these programmes are conducted could be useful.

In closing my statement I should like to assure the members of the Council that the proceedings of the Council, and in particular those remarks related to the progress of education, as well as those on science, mass communication and cultural integrity of the Territory, will be studied closely by the departments of UNESCO concerned.

The PRESIDENT: That concludes the list of speakers on this item. I should like to thank representatives for their excellent co-operation so far in enabling the Council to keep to its time-table. The Council will hold its next meeting tomorrow morning at 10.30 when we shall begin examination of conditions in the Trust Territory of New Guinea.

I should also like to announce that tomorrow afternoon at 3.30, in the Dag Hammarskjold Auditorium the Australian delegation will show a film entitled "Papua and New Guinea, 1971". This has been produced by the Australian Government Film Unit. The film lasts, I understand, about forty-five minutes. This is not, of course, a formal meeting of the Council, but I imagine that members may find the film instructive and informative.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.