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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTEEN HUNDRED AND
EIGHTIETH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 4 June 1971, at 10.30 a.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:
 - (a) Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued)

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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: Today we shall hear the final statements on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Mr. BENNETT (United States of America): On behalf of the entire United States delegation I wish to express my sincere appreciation for the thorough and constructive manner in which the members of this Council have examined the conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. On a personal note, and in view of my very recent arrival in New York, I appreciate the courtesy and the patience of this Council in taking me on board in mid-passage, so to speak. I have had the opportunity to examine the records of those discussions at which I was not present, and they are entirely consistent with the conscientious and thoughtful deliberations which I have been privileged to observe firsthand since assuming my position as United States representative.

(Mr. Bennett, United States)

While the special representative and the Special Adviser will be commenting at greater length in their closing statements on a number of points raised during the Council's deliberations, I wish to respond to two aspects of these discussions.

I regret the inclusion of a note of controversy in this statement, but I must first reject the statement of the representative of the Soviet Union that the United States is failing to fulfil its obligations to further the political, economic, social and educational development of Micronesia. Since the statements of the representative are so at variance with the actual facts and have been responded to so many times before, I shall not devote much time to this rejection. I wish to point out, however, with reference to the strategic character of these islands, to which the representative of the Soviet Union devoted so much attention, that this character was explicitly recognized by the Security Council of the United Nations. This was done with the agreement of the Soviet Union in the establishment of the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement. That strategic significance recognized in 1947 remains valid today.

However, the Agreement also recognized the right of the people of Micronesia to self-determination. The United States did not consider these two elements of the Agreement to be incompatible in 1947, nor do we find them so today. More important, the United States is actively engaged with the people of Micronesia in preparing for that exercise of self-determination, in accordance with article 6, paragraph 1 of the Trusteeship Agreement. We are not seeking to make Micronesia a military and strategic appendage of the United States, nor are we attempting to impose any particular solution on the Micronesian people. Rather we are working with the Status Committee of the Congress of Micronesia to achieve a mutually-agreed status of self-government in association with the United States -- which is the Micronesian stated preference.

As the information before the Council clearly indicates, and as discussed by Ambassador Phillips in his opening remarks, we have not yet reached agreement on the terms of such an association. But I am glad to reiterate the view of my Government that we believe the talks to date have been useful. We are carefully considering the Micronesian position and we are reviewing our own. It is to be

(Mr. Bennett, United States)

expected that the Micronesians are doing likewise. We look forward to a continuation of our dialogue and we remain optimistic that agreement will be reached after full, unhurried consideration.

Most important, we are confident that this agreement will satisfy our Trusteeship and Charter obligations and will be in the best interest of both Micronesia and the United States. Unlike the representative of the Soviet Union, we do not choose to dictate how the Micronesians may view their interests, or what choice they might believe best suited to their wishes, or when that choice might be exercised. Rather we seek to work with them to reach mutual agreement which will then be subject to approval by the people as a whole.

On a second subject, I wish to touch briefly on the suggestions made regarding the possible role of this Council in the continuing discussion of Micronesia's future. The United States fully recognizes its obligations to the Security Council and to the Trusteeship Council. We believe that we, with the help and guidance of the Council, have been fulfilling these obligations. Specifically with regard to the question of the future of the Territory, we have in the past ten days fully informed the Council on developments in this area. We have listened with interest to the observations of individual members, and we shall consider with care any observations and recommendations which the Council may wish to make on this subject.

We do, in general, however, share the view expressed by the representative of Australia when he said that he could not see an additional role for the Council or any other United Nations body at this stage of the future-status discussions. Not only do we share his belief that the possibility for mutual agreement is substantial, but we believe his point regarding the need for informality is particularly pertinent -- and that a United Nations presence would hardly contribute to that end at this juncture.

We, of course, fully support the principle of free access by all Micronesians, including the Joint Status Committee, to this Council. We believe the number of petitions and petitioners, as well as the statements of the Special Advisers

(Mr. Bennett, United States)

before this and previous sessions of the Council, fully demonstrates our adherence to this position. Moreover, we expect eventually to be calling on the Council for assistance as appropriate to the resolution of Micronesia's political status. We believe, however, that this access to the Council, combined with the Council's continuing review of developments in the Territory, both through its regular sessions and its Visiting Missions as well, is entirely adequate to the need now at hand.

Mr. President, I wish to thank you personally for the able and objective manner in which you have led our discussions. And I wish to reiterate my appreciation for the interest and constructive contributions of our colleagues in the Council to the United States administration of the Territory. Speaking personally, I can say that our deliberations have added substantially to my knowledge of Micronesia and have increased my already strong desire to visit the Territory to see its problems and meet its people firsthand.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United States for his kind words.

Mr. JOHNSTON ((Special Representative): First of all, on behalf of our two Special Advisers and our staff, may I sincerely thank the representatives of the member nations of the Trusteeship Council, along with the representatives of WEO and UNESCO, for the helpful suggestions and advice which we have received from this thirty-eighth session of the Council.

During the discussions of the past few days many questions have been raised concerning the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, both in the questioning and in the general debate. We would like now to answer those questions and at the same time to comment on some of the remarks made by various representatives during the general debate.

A subject of primary importance in our discussions before this Council each year is the perplexing land problem in Micronesia. This year, in addition to our reports on the land situation, the Council has heard from a petitioner from the Mariana Islands, and the representative of the United Kingdom has asked specifically that we comment on the remarks and recommendations of the petitioner in our closing statement.

(Mr. Johnston, Special Representative)

We are quite amazed at some of the totally erroneous statements made by the petitioner, apparently with the advice and assistance of his own legal counsel who accompanied him to the Trusteeship Council session. The petitioner alleged in his remarks that the Government of the Trust Territory regularly and consistently invoked the right of sovereign immunity and refused to allow itself to be sued by Micronesian citizens. To put the record straight in this regard, the right of sovereign immunity has been invoked only once in the past three years and not more than a dozen times in the entire history of the Trust Territory. In regard to the suggestion of the petitioner that "the established policy of not allowing the inhabitants of the Trust Territory to sue the Trust Territory Government ... should be changed" (T/PV.1374, p. 53), both the petitioner and his legal counsel should have been aware of the fact that the Congress of Micronesia passed, and the High Commissioner signed into law on 23 September 1967, Public Law 3-21 specifically giving the citizens of Micronesia the right to sue the Trust Territory Government in tort actions.

For many years after the Trusteeship Agreement became effective in 1947, very little was accomplished in the way of any genuine solution of Micronesia's myriad land problems. Because of this fact the Congress of Micronesia passed, and the High Commissioner approved on 2 September 1966, Public Law 2-1 authorizing land commissions in each of the districts of the Trust Territory, and this law was subsequently amended by Public Law 4-13 of 10 September 1968. Under the provisions of that legislation, land commissions are now organized in five of our six districts and their decisions are appealable to the High Court of the Trust Territory. The allegation by the petitioner that the land commissions will not deal with contested or controversial cases is totally false, since the commissions now in operation very definitely handle problems on a systematic geographical basis with problem cases being dealt with in due course.

(Mr. Johnston, Special Representative)

As for the specific case of Mr. Gregorio Castro and the request by the representative of the United Kingdom that we comment on it, although there has obviously been some delay in solving this case, the Executive Branch is now proceeding to bring it to an expeditious conclusion. However, since the lots involved have to be registered under the Land Commission Act, the Executive Branch is reviewing the ownership of these lots as against all other Micronesian claims of ownership outside of the Court's previous judgement. I am sure we will be able to report that this case has been finally settled by next year's session of the Council and further assure this Council that it is an isolated incident and not typical of land cases in general.

The petitioner further alleged that land formerly considered public land had somehow found its way "into the ownership of friends and relatives of former and present officials in the district land office". This unfair allegation is totally and categorically denied by the Trust Territory Government and particularly by the district administrator's office, and we would point out that there is no written record in the Marianas district of any specific allegation that named employees of the district land office have at any time unlawfully acquired former public lands for the benefit of friends, relatives or associates.

Before leaving the subject of public lands we might comment further on discussions by various members of the Council concerning the use to which these lands are put. As indicated in the table on page 250 of the 1970 report, some 183,036 acres of land in the Trust Territory are simply listed as "public domain" and are not currently in productive use. Of this total over 135,000 acres are land suitable only for such purposes as watershed, grazing or conservation areas, leaving approximately 48,000 acres which could still be used for agricultural, residential or commercial purposes.

May we assure the members of the Council that the Government of the Trust Territory will continue its policy of attempting to put all lands in the Trust Territory to their most productive use.

The question was raised by the representative of France as to whether the Land Cadastre Program, once it is completed, could be maintained and kept up to date

(Mr. Johnston, Special Representative)

within the resources of the Micronesian economy. May we assure the Council that the system is designed for simplicity and economy of operation and is even now operated to a great degree by indigenous personnel.

During the general debate the representative of the Soviet Union alleged "foreign companies and firms are occupying a dominant position in the economy of the Territory". We would certainly like to clarify this situation for the records of the Council.

First of all, since February 1970 the investment of foreign capital in the Trust Territory has been forbidden without the express permission of Foreign Investment Boards made up of Micronesian citizens in each of our six administrative districts. Secondly, the record indicates that as of 30 June 1970, of 121 corporate entities doing business in the Trust Territory only five were United States corporations permitted to do business in the Trust Territory, forty-nine were corporations with some United States ownership but chartered as Micronesian corporations, and seventy-two were corporations totally owned by Micronesian citizens. The members of the Council may again be assured that any influx of foreign capital is now very definitely under the control of Micronesian citizens.

As could be expected, the educational programmes in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands have again played a very prominent part in the deliberations of the Council during the past few days. In this year's discussions vocational education has been of special interest to the members of the Council and we have been asked to include in our closing statement the number of persons who have been reached by our vocational programmes over the past few years. In the five-year period from 1962 through 1966 some 3,664 Micronesians received vocational training. The picture for the five-year period from 1967 through 1971, however, is much more encouraging. During this period of time 5,654 individuals have received the benefits of short-term vocational training of up to four months' duration and 10,216 have been given vocational training in various long-term programmes.

(Mr. Johnston, Special Representative)

A similar rate of improvement can be shown by comparing the same five-year periods in regard to Micronesians receiving college degrees at various institutions of higher learning. In the period from 1962 through 1966 Micronesians received fifteen two-year degrees, sixty-two bachelors degrees, and one masters degree. In the five-year period 1967 through 1971 these figures had increased to 161 two-year degrees -- sixty-eight in teaching and ninety-three in nursing -- fifty-two degrees as medical officers or dental officers, 143 bachelors degrees, ten masters degrees and five doctors degrees. In commenting on the percentage of Micronesians currently attending institutions of higher learning the present level of approximately 665 students is a 530 per cent increase over the 1962 figure of 126, and a 230 per cent increase over the 1967 figure of 292. We feel that this record is at least equal to, or probably better than, the record of most other emerging and developing areas.

A final comment in the field of education involves one of our most important programmes -- Teaching English as a Second Language. May I first of all assure the representative of the Soviet Union, and at the same time the other members of this Council, that this programme is very definitely not operated to the detriment of the various local languages. In fact, during the past year to strengthen our efforts to preserve our various local languages we have instituted the Micronesian Linguistics Project through the co-operation of the East-West Center, the University of Hawaii's Department of Linguistics, and the Pacific and Asian Linguistics Institute. During our discussions of the past few days the representative of France suggested that we must be cognizant of the need to educate Micronesia's citizens not only for life within Micronesia but for inevitable contacts with the outside world. The representative of Australia has emphasized the need for Micronesia to play an increasing role in discussions between and among the various Pacific island communities. In order to accomplish these goals, with which our Government thoroughly agrees, and at no sacrifice to proficiency in local languages, we are attempting to provide an increasing degree of fluency in the English language so that our people may readily communicate with other Pacific islanders and with representatives of various nations in other parts of the world. While on this subject I might mention that it is quite apparent to those of us who attend the sessions of the Trusteeship Council that the fact that the representatives of France, China and the Soviet Union have an excellent degree of fluency in the English language in no way impairs their ability to speak and understand their respective native languages.

(Mr. Johnston, Special Representative)

The representative of France inquired concerning the birth rate in Micronesia. Our answer to his question is that the 1970 birth rate appears to be 34.8 births per 1,000 of population. This figure, of course, varies considerably from district to district. Several members of the Council this year in this connexion have mentioned the subject of family planning. We would emphasize that although family planning is beginning to gain acceptance in most of our districts, it will be somewhat offset by a large number of young people reaching the child-bearing age. We would also emphasize that our programs are made available to the people of Micronesia on a strictly voluntary basis.

The representative of France has also raised a very interesting issue concerning the apparent preponderance of males over females in the population of Micronesia. At this point we are unable to provide a scientific explanation and can merely offer the possibility advanced by our Director of Health Services that males are more readily accessible for census counts in Micronesia and that the situation may not in actuality be as unusual as it would seem to be. We would hope to be able to provide more specific information at next year's session of the Council.

A request has been made for information concerning the percentage of our citizens currently employed in fisheries and related industries. Based on an estimated work force of 20,000 and employment of roughly 800, it appears that only 4 per cent of those employed in Micronesia or available for employment are now engaged in this type of employment. It is certainly the desire of the Trust Territory Government to increase this percentage considerably within the next few years. To accomplish this we are co-operating with other island communities in the Pacific.

Moving to the field of agriculture, the representative of France has inquired whether cattle raising might not be greatly increased on our Pacific islands, and has also commented that our major ranching effort, the Micronesian Development Company on Tinian, does not appear to have any of the indigenous population associated with it. May I report to the Council that the Tinian ranching venture now employs twenty-two full-time Micronesians and six others on a part-time basis, and that in addition to this one large ranching operation, sixty other Micronesian citizens are involved in smaller ranching projects in the

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Marianas district alone. We have received expert opinion that a great deal of further progress can be made in this field and it will receive the continuing attention of our Department of Resources and Development. May I merely add the comment that rather than seeking large-scale ranching development, we would much prefer the approach suggested in his opening remarks by Representative Haruo of small successful local ranching projects throughout our various districts.

Earlier in the discussions we indicated that a report would be given to the Council on the progress of our Economic Development Loan Fund. One question was raised concerning the large percentage of delinquencies. Although improvement is still necessary, the percentage of delinquent loans has been reduced from 61 per cent in April 1970 to 32 per cent in April 1971. The Fund is certainly being used to a much greater advantage than ever before in its history. At the present time we have \$1,243,635 in direct loans to Micronesian citizens, and \$917,170 in guaranteed loans -- a guaranteed loan through the co-operation of the United States Small Business Administration requiring us to set aside only a 25 per cent reserve against the total loan. Proof of the fact that the Loan Fund is now being used to its maximum capacity is the fact that the balance in the Fund at the end of April 1971 was only \$18,000. It is for this reason that we are hopeful the United States Congress will soon increase the maximum available under the Fund to \$5 million.

A question was also asked concerning the Bikini Trust Fund. This fund, which was established in November 1956, was originally invested in United States Treasury Bonds at only 3-1/4 per cent interest. It is now invested in United States Treasury Bills at 4.96 per cent, which has increased the annual investment income from \$9,000 to \$12,400. It is anticipated that with the approval of the Bikini people the funds may soon be re-invested in fully guaranteed SBA mortgages at 7 to 9 per cent interest.

In answer to a question concerning investment of the current balance of the Copra Stabilization Fund, we would report that the total retained earnings of the Fund, as of 30 April 1971, were \$932,218.52. Of this amount, \$682,084.46 is currently invested at interest rates varying from 3-3/4 to 7-1/2 per cent, mostly in time certificates of deposit which produce income while giving the Copra Stabilization Board ready access to the funds if they are needed to stabilize the copra market.

(Mr. Johnston, Special Representative)

During the past few days many questions have been asked and many comments made concerning the over-all personnel situation within the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In this connexion we would like to briefly comment as follows.

The representative of the Soviet Union has indicated in his remarks that the position of a District Administrator is "a less important position at the municipal level". This is certainly an incorrect impression since under our current program of decentralization it might well be said that the District Administrator occupies the most important position in the over-all framework of our changing Trust Territory Government. His is certainly a key position in every respect, and the excellent work of the Micronesians occupying these positions has been instrumental in many of the improvements in the Trust Territory in the past two years.

We had hoped at this point, as requested by several members of the Council, to be able to give you a more specific report on the new Trust Territory Merit Plan for Government employees passed by the Congress of Micronesia on 22 May. Unfortunately, the bill itself has not yet been officially transmitted to the High Commissioner's office and we feel it would be inadvisable to give this Council specific information based on only those fragmentary reports now available to those of us who are attending this session of the Council. It is our understanding that the bill as passed does contain a single salary schedule for all employees and we will certainly give the Council a full and complete report at next year's session of the Council.

In concluding our closing statement to this thirty-eighth session of the Trusteeship Council, may I once again assure the members of this Council that the Congress of Micronesia does have important and genuine legislative powers within the framework of the Trust Territory Government and that the much discussed veto power of the High Commissioner is no more than the normal power given to a chief executive in this system of government. As just a few examples of legislation enacted by the Congress within the past few years, we would mention the Foreign Investment Act, the creation of land Commissions in each district, and the recently passed Firearms Control Law.

(Mr. Johnston, Special Representative)

I would again state, in my closing remarks, what a pleasure it has been for me to work with the Congress of Micronesia and to again commend our two Special Advisers and their colleagues for the outstanding accomplishments of the Congress in its first six years of existence.

All of us from Micronesia have enjoyed our discussions with the Trusteeship Council this year, and again thank the members individually and collectively for their hospitality, understanding, and friendly advice.

If I may, Mr. President, in closing, I should like to join with the representative of the United States in commending you for the excellent manner in which you have presided over our deliberations this year.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the Special Representative for his kind words.

Before I call on the next speaker I should like to welcome to our Chamber Senator Lazarus Salii, Chairman of the Joint Political Status Committee of the Congress of Micronesia and his Co-Chairman, Representative Ekpap Silk of the House of Representatives of the Congress of Micronesia.

I call now on the Special Adviser, Mr. Sasauo Haruo.

Mr. HARUO (Special Adviser): It has been a most gratifying experience for me to participate in the deliberations of this Council during the past two weeks. The observations and views expressed by the individual members of this Council will be closely studied by the members of both the executive and the legislative branches of our Government. The recommendations that this Council will make as to how we should now go about in seeking solutions to many of the problems that are still facing us in Micronesia will, I am certain, be seriously considered and followed in the light of our prevailing circumstances and requirements.

We have been favourably impressed and are greatly encouraged by the fact that this Council appreciates and understands the degrees and magnitudes of many of the problems in Micronesia. The geographic dispersion and isolation of the Micronesian islands and their peoples, the historic pace of development since the Second World War, the domestic crisis in land tenure, the inadequate infrastructure, the separation of subsistence and monetary sectors of the economy, the shortage of domestic capital, the level of education, the cultural heritage, the lack of domestic skilled manpower, the imbalance between the public and the private sectors, the inadequate public knowledge of political, economic and social matters, and the emerging demand by Micronesians for a stronger voice in the management and future of their society -- all combine to complicate and make difficult the task of formulating a viable developmental scheme for the Micronesian islands. The in-depth analyses and observations made by the representative of France relative to the administration of Micronesia underscored the magnitude and range of problems that have yet to be met in Micronesia.

We are in full agreement with the representatives of Australia and the United Kingdom that any hope for further economic development in Micronesia must in the end rest upon our increased efforts and the progress made in fisheries

(Mr. Haruo, Special Adviser)

and in agriculture. At the same time the need to relate the educational programmes of the Trust Territory to the economic and social needs and requirements of the Micronesian people should be met within the shortest possible time. Secondary education in Micronesia should integrate vocational-occupational training with the academic programme. The activities of living and learning must be unified in a system of comprehensive education which does not tolerate a dichotomy between the vocational and the academic programmes. Such a system of education will, it is hoped, provide high school graduates with the opportunity to pursue further education or immediately to enter the labour market within and throughout Micronesia.

Along those lines it occurs to us that at this stage of its development Micronesia should now seek to develop an over-all integrated developmental scheme and programme. It is becoming more and more difficult to encourage our students to choose a career in agriculture unless we can at the same time give assurances that there is a structure to assist them in the production of agricultural commodities and, even more important, a structure for marketing and distribution of these agricultural commodities. It is becoming more and more difficult to encourage students to enter a career of entrepreneurship in developing existing natural resources unless there is some technical and financial assistance available to them from the Government. In view of untapped natural resources in Micronesia, our Government can no longer afford the luxury of pursuing educational objectives that bear no relationship to the economic needs and requirements of the people. In view of the natural resources still undeveloped in Micronesia and the interplay of human relationships required for their development, educational policies cannot follow one developmental line while the Department of Resources and Development follows another, the Public Works Department a third, and the Community Development Office still another. A total planning effort at the highest level of our Government to determine the role of each Government department in the fulfilment of the ordered development of the human and natural resources of Micronesia by Micronesians and the development of the educational processes necessary to complete this ordered planning is fast becoming a matter of highest priority.

(Mr. Haruo, Special Adviser)

Turning to some of the observations that were made during the debates of this Council, I should like to clarify certain matters which seem to require further amplification. While it is true that much remains to be done in the field of education in Micronesia, and in the case of Truk District the number of enrolment both in elementary and secondary schools needs to be raised to about 85 per cent of eligible students, it is only fair to mention that Truk District has six secondary schools situated in different locations in that District and not only one secondary school as the members of this Council may have been led to believe.

With regard to the density of population in some districts of the Trust Territory and the capability of these districts to sustain the population, the point is well taken that an orderly programme in emigration and immigration as well as a systematic birth control programme should be seriously considered. But, as in many other countries, the manner in which the birth control programme is carried out in the different districts of the Trust Territory varies to accommodate varying cultural values and social mores, and while invariably this particular programme fails to obtain the publicity and attention that it merits, we have been most satisfied by the progress being made and we should like to assure this Council that its concern about this important matter will be seriously considered in the light of prevailing conditions in our Trust Territory.

(Mr. Haruo, Special Adviser)

Finally, an inquiry was made regarding the contribution that our Congress may make to the capital improvement projects being carried out in each of the administrative districts in view of the fact that enactment of tax laws would result in additional revenues becoming available to the Congress for expenditure. It may be of interest to this Council to learn that, in addition to outright appropriations for specific projects in all six districts, our Congress shares with district legislative bodies revenues being realized from tax laws and other revenue laws currently in effect, and will continue to explore ways and means whereby the division of revenues between our Congress and district legislatures could be made in the future with a view towards making the expenditures of locally-raised revenues have a maximum impact and a multiplier effect in the local economy.

In closing, I should like to express my sincere appreciation for the many courtesies that have been extended to us by the members of this Council and by this Council. I hope that our participation in the deliberations of this Council has served, in some small way, to facilitate the important task that you have been called upon to perform.

Mr. BENNETT (United States of America): Mr. President, at this point I would ask your leave to include in the records of the proceedings one further statement: a statement by the Special Adviser, the Honourable Petrus Tun, Senator from the Yap District, Congress of Micronesia, who is prevented from being here this morning.

The PRESIDENT: I am sorry that Senator Tun has not been able to be with us this morning. I think that the inclusion of his statement in the record would be of assistance to the Council and, unless any member of the Council has objections, I would propose that Senator Tun's statement should be included in the verbatim record of this morning's meeting. If there are no objections it will be so decided.

It was so decided.*

* Mr. Tun's statement appears in document T/PV.1380/Add.1

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the Soviet Union, who wishes to speak in exercise of his right of reply.

Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): May I be allowed to exercise my right of reply and to make a number of observations in response to the statement made by the United States representative.

The representative of the United States, in response to our statement to the Council on the situation obtaining in the Pacific Islands, stated that the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands was a strategic area in accordance with the Trusteeship Agreement. He stated further that those Islands had been placed under the trust of the United States Government in accordance with the arrangements made by the Security Council, that the Security Council had in effect confirmed those arrangements, and that that had been done with the consent of the Soviet Union. I do not remember the precise wording that he used, but those are the general terms of his statement; it was in that direction that he spoke.

I should like to say that the Soviet Union did not actually oppose United States trusteeship over the Pacific Islands, but we should, at the same time, like to affirm that in accordance with the United Nations Charter, United States trusteeship over the Pacific Islands should not be perpetual; nor was that envisaged by the Security Council. One need only refer to Article 83 of the Charter, where we read that:

"2. The basic objectives set forth in Article 76 shall be applicable to the people of each strategic area."

Now let us look at Article 76. In that Article we read that one of the basic objectives of the trusteeship system is:

"b. to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the trust territories, and their progressive development towards self-government or independence...".

(Mr. Shakhov, USSR)

Almost a quarter of a century has elapsed since the establishment of United States trusteeship over the Pacific Islands. That is quite a considerable period of time, and the United States has really had ample opportunity to prepare the population of that Territory for independence.

APPOINTMENT OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE

The PRESIDENT: As the Council is aware, we now have to appoint a drafting committee whose task it will be to propose, on the basis of the discussions which have taken place in the Council, conclusions and recommendations on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and to make recommendations concerning the chapter on conditions in that Territory for inclusion in the next report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council.

After consultations, I would propose to nominate the representatives of France and the United Kingdom as members of the Drafting Committee on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. If I hear no objection it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: The Drafting Committee will meet at a time and place to be arranged between the members and the Secretariat.

PROGRAMME OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: That concludes our agenda for today, but before adjourning the meeting I should say a few words about our next meeting, which, according to our time-table, is to be held on Monday, 7 June 1971, at 10.30 a.m.

I would suggest that at that meeting the Council consider first the communications and petitions concerning the Trust Territory of New Guinea, following which it will begin the general debate on conditions in that Territory.

Is there any comment?

Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): What are your intentions, Mr. President, concerning the general debate? How do you think that debate should be conducted?

The PRESIDENT: In reply to the representative of the Soviet Union, I would expect that the Council would conduct the general debate on the Trust Territory of New Guinea in accordance with the normal pattern -- the pattern that has been followed in previous years and the one that has been followed this year in respect of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The time-table which the Council agreed at its opening meeting to adopt as a guide to its business this year provides for two meetings on Monday, 7 June -- in the morning and in the afternoon -- and I would hope that all members of the Council, and indeed the two members of the Visiting Mission if they wish to speak, would be able to make their contributions to the general debate on Monday, so that the Council could complete the general debate on that day.

I think the Council has decided to consider first the communications and petitions on New Guinea on Monday morning, and after that, at the same meeting, to start the general debate on that Trust Territory.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.