

UN LIBRARY

JUN 29 1982

UN/SA COLLECTION

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

T/PV.1537
28 June 1982

ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FIFTEEN HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SEVENTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Tuesday, 8 June 1982, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. POUDADE (France)

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

Report of the Secretary-General on credentials

Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolutions 557 (VI) and 753 (VIII))

Dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General (Trusteeship Council resolution 36 (III) and General Assembly resolution 754 (VIII)) (continued)

This record is subject to correction.

Corrections should be submitted in one of the working languages, preferably in the same language as the text to which they refer. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also, if possible, incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent, within one week of the date of this document, to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Department of Conference Services, room A-3550, 866 United Nations Plaza.

Any corrections to the records of the meetings of this session will be consolidated in a single corrigendum, to be issued shortly after the end of the session.

82-60695 0205r (E)

Attainment of self-government or independence by the Trust Territories (Trusteeship Council resolution 1369 (XVII) and General Assembly resolution 1413 (XVI)) and the situation in Trust Territories with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 36/68)

Co-operation with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI))

Arrangements for the dispatch of a periodic visiting mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

Organization of work

The meeting was called to order at 3.30 p.m.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1981; TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1837; T/L.1228 and Add.1-3 and T/L.1229) (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As agreed at the Council's 1532nd meeting, on 25 May 1982, I called on the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations with regard to the question of the proposed disposal of nuclear waste in the Pacific region. Subsequently, in a letter dated 2 June 1982 addressed to me, the Permanent Representative communicated his Government's position on the matter as follows:

"With reference to the approach made by you on Wednesday, 26 May 1982, in your capacity as President of the Trusteeship Council, upon instructions from my Government I have the honour to inform you and the members of the Council of the position of my Government regarding the question of the proposed disposal of low-level radioactive wastes in a certain area of the Pacific, to which reference has been made in the Council's current deliberations.

"Like other forms of energy, nuclear power generation produces wastes. There are two categories of nuclear waste, each of different radioactivity: low-level radioactive wastes and high-level radioactive wastes. The Atomic Energy Commission of Japan has already determined that the disposal of low-level radioactive wastes in the sea and on land should be carried out by taking fully into account the results of safety assessments and experimental disposals. We do not propose to dispose in the sea of high-level radioactive wastes and 'spent nuclear fuel', the sea disposal of both of which is prohibited by the provisions of the London Convention.

"The disposal of low-level radioactive wastes in the sea is not something new. Some European countries have carried out such disposal in the Atlantic since 1967 within the framework of the multilateral consultation and surveillance mechanism of the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA) of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and no harmful effects either on marine life or on human health have been reported as a result of such disposal.

(The President)

"In dealing with disposal in the sea, our primary concern is to ensure the maximum degree of safety, and strict safety standards and procedures will be observed for this purpose. To ensure maximum safety we have already proceeded with extensive and exhaustive experiments on packages to be disposed of. At the same time, we have conducted surveys at the proposed disposal sites. Based on the results of these experiments and surveys, we have assessed the safety of sea disposal. The resulting safety assessments have fully convinced us of the environmental safety of our proposed disposal.

"The selection of the disposal site is limited to certain specific sea areas according to international standards established by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Consequently, the proposed site is situated at 147 degrees E and 30 degrees N, or about 900 kilometres south-east of Tokyo, and the nation nearest to the proposed site is Japan.

"The Government of Japan has made sincere efforts to convince its Pacific neighbours as to the safety of its programme. Since August 1980, we have dispatched five missions for this purpose. Regrettably, in spite of such efforts, we have not yet been successful in gaining the full understanding of these countries.

"We will continue our efforts to obtain the understanding of the countries and Territories concerned. In so doing, we will continue to take fully into account their sentiments and sensitivities on this issue. We wish to emphasize that there has been no change in our basic position that the proposed sea disposal programme will be carried out with the understanding of the countries and Territories concerned.

"I should be grateful if you would arrange to have this letter circulated as a document of the Trusteeship Council to the members of the Council."

(T/1841)

The letter is signed by Masahiro Nisibori, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations.

Are there any comments on that letter?

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Can we get that document? Before commenting on it, we should like to see it. We have not received it so far.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): At my request, the letter has been issued by the Secretariat; it is document T/1841 dated 4 June 1982. Some copies will be distributed immediately.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It is unfortunate that we did not receive this document earlier. We are only now having the opportunity to read the letter very quickly.

From what we see here, we conclude that for all practical purposes the question of the disposal of nuclear wastes in the Micronesian area remains open and that the concern expressed in the Council and the communications received by the Trusteeship Council regarding the proposed action by Japn remain unanswered.

The Council has not received clear information from Japan as to how the interests of the Micronesian people will be taken into account. The letter says:

(spoke in English)

"... in spite of such efforts, we have not yet been successful in gaining the full understanding of these countries." (T/1841, p.2)

(continued in Russian)

Gaining the full understanding of those countries is one thing, but there is quite another thing, as we can see from the letter of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, the Permanent Representative of Japan. On the one hand he says that Japan will continue its efforts to gain the understanding of the countries and Territories; on the other, he makes a rather firm statement that

(spoke in English)

"... we will continue to take fully into account their sentiments and sensitivities on this issue. We wish to emphasize that there has been no change in our basic position that the proposed sea disposal programme will be carried out with the understanding of the countries and Territories concerned." (ibid.)

(continued in Russian)

So the letter states on the one hand that Japan will attempt to gain understanding and on the other that the nuclear-waste disposal programme will continue.

I think we ought to take this letter from the Permanent Mission of Japan into account and at the same time try to find out from the Government of Japan how it will take into account these interests of the Micronesian people in implementing the Japanese programme.

Secondly, it is clear from the discussion that took place on the petitions and communications from Micronesia on this matter that these should be given serious consideration and that the Secretariat should take some kind of action on them. We are suggesting not that the Secretariat should take any decision of a political nature but that it should inform the Government of Japan of the petitions and communications, if possible before the beginning of the session. We could then begin the session with certain definite information.

In my view, we must devote attention to petitions received by the Council, draw the attention of the Administering Authority to them and wait for its answer.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): If there are no further comments on the letter from the Ambassador of Japan, the Council will take note of it. The Secretariat can, of course, draw the attention of the Permanent Mission of Japan to the comments made here today, if the Council so wishes. On the matter of petitions, the Secretariat tells me that they are constantly and regularly sent to the Administering Authority.

I therefore suggest that the Council take note of Ambassador Nisibori's letter and instruct the Secretariat to draw the attention of the Japanese Mission to the comments made this afternoon concerning it.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): As I understand it, in that part of the report dealing with petitions and communications, and in particular in the part concerning radioactive waste disposal, and the part containing a summary of the discussion on this or that petition or communication, there will be a footnote referring to this letter from the representative of Japan.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): It does indeed seem to me that the report being drafted by the Drafting Committee will make reference to the communication addressed to us by the representative of Japan.

I call on Mr. Abebe, Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. ABEBE (Secretary of the Committee): In the report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council there are two sections where an extensive summary of the letter from the Permanent Representative of Japan could be reflected. One is the section dealing with the examination of petitions; the second is the section in part II dealing with land and people, "A. General", in which the Drafting Committee has included its recommendation. If the Trusteeship Council could give us a directive on where to place the summary of the letter, the secretariat would be most grateful.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Mr. Abebe tells me that the letter from the Japanese Mission could be summarized and put under "A. General", which is "Land and people". Then a cross-reference or a footnote could be put in the section entitled "Examination of petitions".

Mr. MACLAY (United Kingdom): I think we do have a particular responsibility to keep the documents that we are going to be conveying to the Security Council as brief and concise and to the point as possible. It seems that it would be a very good suggestion that we should have a precise summary in the section which would normally include this subject matter and then a footnote in the other section. This would, I think, meet the Soviet representative's legitimate concern that this question should not be overlooked by the Council in its report. So I think that the inclination of the Secretariat is correct and I would support the suggestion made by Mr. Abebe.

Mr. BARELLI (France) (interpretation from French): I too, both as representative of France and as a member of the Drafting Committee, support the suggestion made by Mr. Abebe and endorsed by the representative of the United Kingdom.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): When we were speaking of the fact that this should be reflected in the report, we did not mean to expand the report or to include in it the full text of this letter. As I understand it the representative of the Drafting Committee has agreed to Mr. Abebe's suggestion, which seems to me to be a perfectly reasonable one.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): If there are no comments, we shall follow in the report the suggestion made by the Secretariat and supported by delegations in the Council.

It was so decided.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CREDENTIALS (T/1840)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Secretary-General's report on credentials has been distributed by the Department of Conference Services. If there is no comment or objection, I shall take it that the Council decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on credentials.

It was so decided.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1981: TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1837; T/L.1228 and Add.1-3 and T/L.1229) (continued)

Mr. MACLAY (United Kingdom): At the 1535th meeting of the Council, which took place on 28 May, the Council appointed a drafting committee composed of representatives of France and the United Kingdom. This committee, which had been assigned the task of preparing a report of the forty-ninth session of the Council, held four meetings for this purpose and its report is now contained in document T/L.1229. The committee was assisted by officials from the United Nations Secretariat and by a representative from the Administering Authority.

The drafting committee now has the honour of presenting its report to the Trusteeship Council. In making its recommendations, the drafting committee has taken into account opinions expressed during the forty-ninth session by the Administering Authority, the various delegations, the special advisers and the petitioners. The committee has also drawn on the 1981 report on the Trust Territory prepared by the Administering Authority.

In this connexion, I should like to make a brief observation on the report as it has been submitted this year, taking up some comments which were made by the representative of the Soviet Union.

We do quite understand that individual sections of the report have this year been contributed by the Constitutional Governments themselves. We naturally welcome their having taken on the task of providing reports on the subjects for which they are increasingly taking over the responsibility. However, we would appeal to the Administering Authority to make every effort to see that there is a uniform layout to the sections of this report, particularly the sections which deal with similar subject matter in the separate parts of the Trust Territory.

In particular, we hope that during the final editing work the Administering Authority will see that there are no gaps in the information submitted. The submission of the report should remain the responsibility of the Administering Authority right up to the termination of the Trust.

We would also appeal to the Administering Authority to see that each of the conclusions and recommendations from the previous session of the Trusteeship Council should be addressed specifically, with some sort of response being made to

each individual suggestion. This year there do seem to be a number of cases where a recommendation has either not been addressed at all or else the text of a recommendation is reproduced without any substantive reply being provided. We would be grateful for the Administering Authority's co-operation on this question for next year's report.

On behalf of the delegations of France and the United Kingdom, I should like to take this opportunity to express our very warm thanks for the assistance given to us by the Secretariat team headed by Mr. Abebe and to the Administering Authority.

We should like to stress, however, that the conclusions and recommendations put forward in the report are those of the members of the drafting committee. We hope that the Trusteeship Council will see fit to take note of and endorse these conclusions.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Before expressing our comments and views on the draft report, we wanted to have a little more time in order to study it very carefully and we will be ready at a later stage to make comments and express our views.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): My intention was to state that the Council could consider, discuss and adopt the conclusions and recommendations of the draft report at our last meeting this week. I think it would be better for delegations to have a chance to read this draft in detail before the end of the week. Then, during the last meeting, we shall discuss it and try to adopt it.

AGENDA ITEM 7

OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF TRUST TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 557 (VI) AND 753 (VIII))

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Subsequent to the issuance of document T/1839 and Add.1 on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Permanent Representative of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the United Nations transmitted a note dated 31 May 1982 to the Secretary-General (T/1839/Add.2), which I understand has been distributed to members of the Council. Are there any comments on it?

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): As the Council will recall, at an earlier stage the Soviet delegation asked the Administering Authority how the offers of States are used to enable Micronesian students to study in various countries. The Administering Authority did provide us with a list, but it informs us only of the countries where these students study and does not answer the question which we asked - namely, how the offers of States are used.

We see today, in the note from Czechoslovakia, that although a rather large number of fellowships are offered to students from the Trust Territories, the offers were not fully utilized. We should, of course, take note of that fact.

We should also take note of the fact that despite the fact that there are only two Micronesian medical doctors in Micronesia, the people of that Territory are not able to fully utilize the fellowships offered by other States, aside from the United States and a small number of other States. In my view we are going to have to take note of that somewhere.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): If there are no further comments and if there are no objections, I suggest that the Council decide to take note of the communication in document T/1839/Add.2, which forms an integral part of the report of the Secretary-General in document T/1839/Add.1.

It was so decided.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM IN TRUST TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL RESOLUTION 36 (III) AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 754 (VIII)) (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Members will recall that additional information was provided subsequent to the issuance of the report of the Secretary-General on dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in Trust Territories. The additional information is contained in document T/1838/Add.1, which lists documents and films that have been distributed to the Trust Territory during the period under review.

(The President)

If I hear no comments or objections, I shall take it that the Council decides to take note of document T/1838/Add.1, which forms part of the Secretary-General's report.

It was so decided.

ATTAINMENT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE BY THE TRUST TERRITORIES (Trusteeship Council resolution 1369 (XVII) and General Assembly resolution 1413 (XIV)) AND THE SITUATION IN TRUST TERRITORIES WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 36/68)

CO-OPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI))

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): With regard to items 11 and 12, which deal respectively with attainment of self-government or independence and co-operation with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, consultations among the members of the Council are continuing.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISPATCH OF A PERIODIC VISITING MISSION TO THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As members are aware, the Council has not yet considered this item of the agenda. I would recall that in our report to the Security Council following the last session we said:

"At its 1521st meeting, on 10 June 1981, the Council decided to send a periodic visiting mission to the Trust Territory in either 1982 or 1983 and that the specific arrangements for the dispatch of that mission should be decided by the Council not later than at its forty-ninth regular session."

(S/14709, para. 165)

(The President)

In this regard, it will be recalled that at the 1523rd and 1524th meetings, on 17 and 18 May, the representative of the United States and the Special Representatives of the Administering Authority suggested that the Council consider dispatching a visiting mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in 1982. In accordance with established practice, the Council's decisions to dispatch visiting missions are embodied in resolutions setting forth their terms of reference. In the circumstances I suggest that members hold consultations and reach a decision on this matter before the current session closes this week.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): At the Council's 1529th meeting, on 21 May, the petitioners representing the Focus on Micronesia Coalition referred to a study made on economic conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Copies of the study have now been received by the secretariat and, in accordance with the decision taken at that meeting, have been distributed to Council members. I assume that the Secretariat has distributed that document to all the Missions.

Furthermore, at the Council's 1534th meeting, Mr. Uherbelau, Adviser to the Administering Authority, submitted statistical information on Palauan students studying abroad. I understand that the Secretariat has already distributed that document to members of the Council.

(The President)

Would any delegation like to speak at this stage?

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I would recall that the Soviet delegation has reserved its right to speak as regards the last statement of the representative of the United States. We shall be ready to do so at one of our later meetings.

Mr. KINNEY (United States of America): Mr. President, as I informed you last week, in the event of the Soviet delegation's choosing to rebut our statement, it will be necessary for us to respond to them. I exercised great restraint the week before last in not responding to a long list of purported "facts", but since my Soviet colleague insists on replying to our national statement of position I shall have to reserve Ambassador Sherman's right to do the same at the meeting following the one at which he chooses to speak.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall meet next on Thursday morning, when we shall hear the statements which will be made by the delegations of the Soviet Union and the United States.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.