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Fifteenth special session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FIFTEEN HUNDRED AND FORTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 17 December 1982, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. POUDADE (France)

Letter dated 18 November 1982 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, containing a request for a special session of the Trusteeship Council to organize and dispatch a mission or series of missions to observe plebiscites in Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia (continued).

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2-65090

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

LETTER DATED 18 NOVEMBER 1982 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (T/1844), CONTAINING A REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO ORGANIZE AND DISPATCH A MISSION OR SERIES OF MISSIONS TO OBSERVE PLEBISCITES IN PALAU, THE MARSHALL ISLANDS AND THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (continued)

Mr. GOULDING (United Kingdom): This special session of the Trusteeship Council has been convened at the request of the Government of the United States, the Administering Authority of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The reasons for that request have been set out in letters dated 18 November 1982 to the Secretary-General and to you, Mr. President, from the Permanent Representative of the United States. Those reasons were further elaborated yesterday by Ambassador Sherman in his statement to the Council.

In brief, the Governments of the United States and of Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia have recently completed the long-drawn-out negotiations on a new political status for those three parts of the Trust Territory. The three Governments in the Trust Territory are now ready, or are almost ready, to submit the outcome of their negotiations to their people in plebiscites. Those Governments, together with the Government of the Administering Authority, have expressed the wish that the Trusteeship Council should dispatch visiting missions to observe the plebiscites. It is to consider the Administering Authority's request to that effect that this special session has been convened.

My Government had no hesitation in agreeing to the Administering Authority's request for a special session of the Trusteeship Council. We are equally ready to support the request for the dispatch of visiting missions to observe the plebiscites. It is clear that those plebiscites will constitute important acts of self-determination by the people of Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. It is an essential function of the Trusteeship Council to monitor the progress of the people of Trust Territories towards the achievement of the basic objectives of the Trusteeship System, as set out in

(Mr. Goulding, United Kingdom)

Article 76 of the Charter - notably in this case,

"... their progressive development towards self-determination or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of each territory and its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned..."

It will also be recalled that in its most recent report to the Security Council the Trusteeship Council reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Micronesia to self-determination, including the right to independence, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Agreement. It has been this Council's consistent practice to send missions to observe landmarks in the constitutional evolution of each Trust Territory. There can be no doubt therefore that on this occasion too the Council should respond positively to the request we have received from the Administering Authority and to the wishes of the three constitutional Governments in the Trust Territory.

For it is through the forthcoming plebiscite- that the people of Micronesia will tell their elected leaders what constitutional arrangements they think will best meet their political, social and economic aspirations. The choice is theirs. It has been clear for many years that the people of the Trust Territory do not believe that their aspirations can best be met by continuation of the trusteeship. Their representatives have accordingly explored, in exhaustive negotiations with the Administering Authority, what alternatives to continuation of the trusteeship might suit them best. To be frank, my Government would have wished that those negotiations could be brought to an earlier conclusion. All delegations represented in this chamber have observed at recent sessions of the Council the rising tide of frustration in the Trust Territory at the delay in agreeing on a basis for termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. As the Council is aware, the Government and people of the Northern Mariana Islands decided some years ago, in 1975, the political status they would like to adopt in place of the trusteeship. The people of the Northern Marianas are understandably anxious for the earliest possible termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. Moreover, my delegation has been sensitive to suggestions we have heard in this Council that perpetuation of the trusteeship when it was no longer desired by the people of the Trust Territory could amount to a new form of colonialism.

(Mr. Goulding, United Kingdom)

My Government has therefore welcomed the successful conclusion in recent months of the negotiations between the Administering Authority and the constitutional Governments of Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. Those negotiations have led to agreement on what are known as Compacts of Free Association. The question which is shortly to be put to the people by plebiscite is whether those Compacts of Free Association adequately meet their aspirations. We note, and we welcome, the fact that the people in the three Territories will not simply be asked to say yes or no to the Compacts of Free Association; they will also have the opportunity to choose as alternatives to free association the negotiation of either independence or a closer relationship with the United States.

The Trusteeship Council has consistently called upon the Administering Authority to promote political education programmes in the Trust Territory so that the people of the Territory can make an informed choice between the options offered to them. We share the concern expressed by the petitioners whom the Council heard yesterday that there should be fully adequate programmes of political education in all three entities.

(Mr. Goulding, United Kingdom)

We have been glad to hear from the representative of the Administering Authority that a vigorous and objective programme of political education has been in progress for some months in Palau. We emphasize most strongly that it is important that similar programmes should be actively developed in the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia and we trust that that is the case. This is a question to which the visiting missions to be sent by the Trusteeship Council should pay particular attention.

My Government has also welcomed the suggestion by the Administering Authority that the visiting missions dispatched by this Council should be strengthened through the participation in them of representatives of States in the Pacific region which are not themselves members of the Trusteeship Council. We believe that this is an imaginative and appropriate suggestion which follows precedents established by previous practice of the Council and which is clearly permitted by rule 95 of the Council's rules of procedure. Inclusion of non-member States in the visiting missions will be in accordance both with the importance of the acts of self-determination which are about to take place and with the growing links between the people of Micronesia and their neighbours, links to which the Trusteeship Council has repeatedly welcomed. My delegation accordingly proposes, Mr. President, that you should urgently consult countries of the Pacific region to ascertain whether they would be willing to accept an invitation from the Council to take part in the proposed visiting missions to Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

My delegation listened carefully yesterday to the petitions presented to the Council by petitioners from the International League of Human Rights and the Focus on Micronesia Coalition. As I have already said, we agree with what the petitioners said about the importance of adequate programmes of political education. We also found ourselves in considerable sympathy with their call for simultaneous plebiscites in all three entities. Indeed, for various reasons this would have been the preference of my own Government. But we have felt obliged to pay heed to the very clearly expressed desire of the constitutional Governments in the Territory to proceed individually to their plebiscites as soon as their people have had time to acquaint themselves with the Compacts signed on their behalf. In this respect the three Governments are, of course,

(Mr. Goulding, United Kingdom)

following the precedent set by the Northern Marianas in 1975. This being so, my Government would not think it right for the Council to press for simultaneous plebiscites against the wishes of the constitutional Governments concerned. I would, however, like to record my Government's view that in order to minimize the financial and administrative burden on the United Nations, it would be desirable for the Administering Authority and the three other Governments concerned to try to arrange for the plebiscites to follow each other as closely as possible so that a single visiting mission from this Council could observe two, or even all, of them without the expense of repeated return journeys across the Pacific.

Finally, I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution in document T/L.1233. The draft resolution is largely self-explanatory. It will be noted that the third preambular paragraph records what I hope will be the Council's view that representatives of non-member States should be included in the visiting missions.

Operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution provides for the mission to Palau to begin on or about 1 February to observe the plebiscite which is scheduled for 10 February 1983 and for the other missions to take place on dates to be decided by you, Mr. President, in consultation with the Administering Authority and the other members of the Council, when the dates of the plebiscites in the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia are known.

Operative paragraph 2 of our draft resolution indicates the suggested size of each of the visiting missions. These suggestions take account of variations in the size and geographical dispersal of the three entities. The paragraph leaves blank the countries from which the missions should be drawn pending the outcome of the consultations which it has been suggested that you, Mr. President, should undertake as soon as possible with non-member States from the Pacific region. Meanwhile, I am authorized to state my own Government's readiness to take part in all the visiting missions.

The remaining operative paragraphs of the draft resolution are on standard lines and contain instructions to the visiting missions and the normal request to the Secretary-General to provide the necessary staff and facilities to assist them.

(Mr. Goulding, United Kingdom)

My delegation commends our draft resolution to the Council in the belief that it provides the proposed missions with an appropriate mandate. The plebiscites which are to be held will mark an important chapter in the history of the peoples of Micronesia. It is of the greatest importance that the Trusteeship Council should continue to play its part in making sure that in those plebiscites the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and the objectives of the Trusteeship System are achieved to the full.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I have just received a telegram addressed to me by the Honourable President Remeliik in which he refers to the statement made yesterday by Ambassador Sherman head of the United States delegation, in regard to this question. I shall read out the text of the telegram: (spoke in English)

"Due to the necessity of further political education efforts regarding Compact of Free Association, the plebiscite date has been changed to 10 February 1983. The 11 January 1983 date is no longer applicable. Repeat: the plebiscite in Palau will be held 10 February 1983. Please adjust your schedules accordingly. I hope this necessary delay does not cause undue difficulties."

The telegram is signed "Haruo I. Remeliik, President, Republic of Palau".

(continued in French)

This telegram will be distributed to member States in accordance with paragraph 1 of rule 85 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council.

I now call on the Secretary of the Committee, who will give the Council some indications about the financial implications of draft resolution T/L.1233.

Mr. ABEBE (Secretary of the Council): The draft resolution contained in document T/L.1233 is being referred to the Office of Financial Services of the Secretariat, which, under rule 65 of the rules of procedure of the Trusteeship Council, will prepare a statement of the financial implications of the draft resolution, should it be adopted. That statement will be submitted to the Council in due course.

Mrs. COCHERE (France) (interpretation from French): Since I am speaking for the first time in the Trusteeship Council, I should like to greet the representatives of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union and to thank them for their kind words of welcome. It is a great honour for me to work with them in the Council.

The Trusteeship Council is holding a special session to decide on the dispatch of a mission or series of missions to observe plebiscites in Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia in which the inhabitants of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands will be called upon to decide their future political status.

These plebiscites are ultimately to lead to the termination of the trusteeship. Thus they are of great importance both for the Micronesian peoples and for the United Nations, since it is this Council's responsibility to assure itself that all the procedures leading to termination of the trusteeship are in accordance with the provisions of the Charter.

Article 76 b of the Charter is very clear on that point. It states that the Trusteeship system has the objective of promoting the progressive development of the populations concerned towards self-government or independence, bearing in mind the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned. Thus it is essential: first, that the inhabitants of the Trust Territory be fully and completely informed of the different choices open to them under the provisions of Article 76 b of the Charter; secondly, that their political education be sufficient and indisputable; thirdly, that their will be freely expressed; and, fourthly and finally, that the United Nations be able to supervise the proper conduct of the plebiscite and in particular that the conditions in which the Micronesians make their decision be perfectly democratic.

(Mrs. Cocheme, France)

My delegation has taken due note of the commitments made by the Administering Authority, contained in the letter of 18 November (T/1844) addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of the United States, Mrs. Kirkpatrick and in the introductory statement made yesterday in this Chamber by the United States representative to the Trusteeship Council. We have noted in particular the assurances provided by the United States delegation concerning the implementation of the political education programme and the opportunity offered to the inhabitants of Palau to choose free association or, if that is rejected, between independence and a closer relationship with the United States. It goes without saying that the inhabitants of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia should have the benefit of a comprehensive political education programme and a choice among various options similar to those proposed to the inhabitants of Palau.

My delegation shares the concerns expressed yesterday by Mr. Clark and Father Wood. Thus, if the three planned plebiscites cannot be held simultaneously, they should be held consecutively, as closely together as possible.

In his statement Ambassador Sherman said that, in view of the importance of the process of self-determination underway in the three Micronesian entities, the United States would welcome the inclusion of representatives of States of the Pacific region in the visiting missions. The French delegation can only support that suggestion. It is indeed quite natural, in view of the importance of the planned plebiscites, that States of the region, respected Members of our Organization, should be associated with our Council's mission. That is a traditional practice that is recognized by our Organization.

Rule 95 of the rules of procedure of our Council is particularly clear with regard to membership of missions sent to Trust Territories. It is for the Trusteeship Council itself to appoint, on a case-by-case basis, the members of each visiting mission. Rule 95 makes it clear that those members should preferably include - and I stress the word "preferably" - one or more of the representatives on the Council. In other words, missions clearly can include representatives of States that are not members of the Trusteeship

(Mrs. Cocheme, France)

Council. In this case, in view of the very particular importance of the missions whose task it will be to observe the plebiscites leading to termination of the trusteeship, it seems to us to be quite justifiable - and I would even say absolutely essential - that representatives of neighbouring States participate in these missions.

Thus the French delegation hopes, Mr. President, that you will as soon as possible begin consultations to that end with States of the Pacific region. It seems to us important that the Trusteeship Council promote the participation of such States in observer missions at a time when the inhabitants of the last Trust Territory of the United Nations are about to exercise their right to determine their fate, by deciding on self-government or accession to independence, in conformity with Article 76 of the United Nations Charter.

The delegation of the United Kingdom has just introduced a draft resolution on the dispatch of observer missions which is aimed explicitly at enabling the Trusteeship Council missions to include other Member States of the Pacific region. In view of what I have just stated, my delegation supports the United Kingdom draft resolution and, if it is put to the vote, will vote in favour of it.

Mr. OLEANDROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The position of the Soviet Union on the matter of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands - Micronesia - and our assessment of the policy of the Administering Authority, the United States of America, have been set forth time and again by us in the Trusteeship Council. In past sessions of the Trusteeship Council the Soviet delegation has subjected to broad scrutiny and to criticism the actions of the United States with regard to this Territory by showing that they are illegal and that they are intended to dismember and to annex Micronesia in spite of the demands of the Charter, of the goals and purposes of the Trusteeship System, and of the relevant provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement which was concluded between the Security Council and the Government of the United States. We emphasize that the actions of the United States are in glaring contradiction with the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and with numerous decisions of the United Nations which condemn any attempts partially or completely to violate the national unity and territorial integrity of colonial Territories and which confirm the inalienable right of the colonial peoples to self-determination and independence.

Today the Trusteeship Council has been convened in a special session at the request of the United States to discuss its proposal on the dispatching of one or more missions to observe the so-called plebiscite in various parts of Micronesia - in Palau, the Marshall Islands and in the Federated States of Micronesia. At the same time, the Government of the United States has informed the Trusteeship Council that it has completed negotiations with the Governments of these parts of the Trust Territory on their future status and that now the process has begun whereby the parties would approve the overall Compact of Free Association which has been drafted and would also approve related supplementary agreements.

(Mr. Oleandrov, USSR)

Does this signify any change whatsoever in the policy of the United States toward Micronesia? Has the United States forsworn its illegal goals? Has the United States agreed to align those goals with the demands of the United Nations Charter, with the demands of the Trusteeship Agreement and with the Declaration on decolonization? Not in the least. On the contrary, the negotiations with individual parts of Micronesia, the drafting of a Compact of Free Association and other agreements, the preparation for holding plebiscites: all this represents successive stages by different United States Administration in the carrying out of one and the same policy of fragmentation, militarization and absorption of the Trust Territory of Micronesia and of transforming it into a colonial appendage of the United States.

The Soviet Union, of course, cannot agree with such actions by the United States and therefore felt it was unnecessary to convene a special session of the Trusteeship Council. It cannot support the proposal to send missions of the Trusteeship Council to observe the so-called plebiscites in Micronesia.

What does the United States wish to achieve by sending missions of the Trusteeship Council to Micronesia? It is clear that the purpose of this proposal is to give some semblance of legitimacy to its own illegal actions with regard to this Territory and to attempt to mask the annexation of individual parts of Micronesia with a certificate signed by observer missions of the Trusteeship Council.

The unquestionable fact is that the United States, having received from the United Nations a mandate for trusteeship over Micronesia, has used it as a screen for actually seizing this Territory. It has violated the provisions of Article 83 of the Charter of the United Nations, which states that:

"All functions of the United Nations relating to strategic areas, including the approval of the terms of the trusteeship agreements and of their alteration or amendment, shall be exercised by the Security Council."

(Mr. Oleandrov, USSR)

The United States, in the name of its own expansionist goals, in spite of the legitimate interests and rights of the people of Micronesia, for many years now has been imposing upon Micronesia a new colonial status behind the façade of a commonwealth or free association with the United States.

In fact, this would be tantamount to transforming the Trust Territory into an American possession. In order to achieve this, the United States, as the Administering Authority, for the entire period involved has not fulfilled the tasks and goals of trusteeship in the area of the economic, social and political development of Micronesia which were assigned to the Administering Authority in Article 76 of the Charter of the United Nations. As a result, Micronesia at the present time is one of the most backward and undeveloped regions of the world. Its development was delayed with malice aforethought in order to bind that Territory fully to the economy of the United States, to make it non-self-sufficient and dependent on hand-outs from Washington, and then to use this situation to allege that Micronesia is in no condition to exist as an independent State, without the United States.

The Micronesians speaking in the Trusteeship Council have habitually referred to the disastrous economic and social situation in their Territory, and to the fact that the present situation is almost worse than it was before they were transferred to trusteeship under the United States.

It must be said that the peoples of Micronesia have been more and more active and decisive in fighting for their violated rights. Shortly after we had discussed the situation in Micronesia in the Trusteeship Council in the spring of this year, there were mass protest demonstrations of the local inhabitants on Kwajelein Atoll against the use of their land as a military firing range. These demonstrations, according to statements in the American press, involved more than 800 people. The inhabitants of the Marshall Islands are increasing their demands for the independence of their country.

(Mr. Oleandrov, USSR)

It is well known that the United States dissolved the Congress of Micronesia, which was advocating unity and territorial integrity for the entire Trust Territory and the achievement of its independence, and that for a period of 13 years the United States used the serious situation of the people of Micronesia in order to try to impose on individual parts of Micronesia servile agreements forever depriving that people of the right to independence.

This is precisely the nature and the purpose of the Compact of Free Association and other, supplementary, agreements which sell out Micronesia to the Pentagon, ignoring the rights and interests of its people. It is no accident that quite recently the special representative of the President of the United States for the negotiations with Micronesia said, when he spoke in the Congress of the United States, that half of his delegation at the negotiations was made up of representatives of the Pentagon. Incidentally, the Compact of Free Association stipulates that it can be terminated upon mutual agreement by the parties. That is, the Micronesian Government does not have the right independently, by a decision of its own, to terminate the Compact without the agreement thereto of the United States. Should such an intention arise among the Micronesian Governments, then they must carry that out through yet another plebiscite under United States supervision. And if the populations of the Micronesian entities should somehow still succeed in taking decisions to terminate the Compact of Free Association within 50 years, the United States would still maintain all of its rights and privileges to use the territory of Micronesia militarily for half a century. For, according to the Compact, the articles on questions of so-called security and defence would remain in force even if the Compact were no longer in force. This reflects the essence of the Compact and especially of the other agreements, the thrust of which is to make Micronesia a springboard for the United States to establish unlimited domination over huge areas of the Pacific Ocean and to strengthen its own military-strategic positions in that part of the world.

(Mr. Oleandrov, USSR)

That is precisely the reason why the policy of the United States as embodied in the Compact and in the supplementary agreements represents a serious threat to the security of the people of Micronesia - and not just to their security but also to the security of other countries of Asia and Oceania which are adjacent to that region.

On 18 November of this year the United States informed the Council that it had recently completed negotiations with the Micronesians on the future political status of Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. Did the United Nations, did its Security Council or its Trusteeship Council have the chance to observe the course of these negotiations? The answer is an unambiguous "no". The negotiations which were held by the United States with the Micronesians went on for 13 years behind closed doors, behind the back of the United Nations, secretly. In these negotiations the Micronesians were completely in the hands of the United States; they were subject to political and economic pressure and blackmail; and they were faced, as they continue to be faced, with one choice: either accept the conditions of the Administering Authority and get some semblance of self-government, and actually be transformed into a possession of the United States - that is, submit to a new colonial framework of the Administering Authority - or remain as before, within the framework of the Trusteeship System.

The attempts by the Micronesians genuinely to determine by themselves the foundations for their own future political status were, as is known, cut off by the Administering Authority immediately. Examples of this abound: the dissolved Congress of Micronesia, the repeated amendments made by the United States to various parts of the Constitution of Micronesia which the Micronesians wished to have but which were not in keeping with the interests of the United States. The result of the conflict of interest between the United States and Micronesia has always been unfavourable to the people of Micronesia.

(Mr. Oleandrov, USSR)

Thus, negotiations on the status of Micronesia were not under the control either of the United Nations or of the international community; rather, the parties to the negotiations were in an unequal and inequitable position, since one of the parties - Micronesia - was not independent and free when it participated in the negotiations.

Under the United Nations Charter, responsibility for the fate of Micronesia under trusteeship and for its decolonization lies, in the final analysis, with the United Nations. That fate cannot be determined by the United States without the involvement of the Security Council. Any change in the status of Micronesia can take place only upon a decision of the Security Council of the United Nations. This provision was most definitely not put into the United Nations Charter by accident. It has profound significance, since the United Nations and its Security Council have been appointed to monitor any change in the conditions of trusteeship. If necessary, it is the duty of the Security Council to protect the legitimate rights and interests of the people of the strategic Trust Territory from arbitrary action by the Administering Authority.

The Compact of Free Association forced upon the people of Micronesia was not discussed in the United Nations nor were the so-called supplementary agreements, which are even more servile than the Compact itself and which contradict the interests and the Constitutions of individual parts of Micronesia.

Are these documents genuinely known to the Micronesian people? Barely half a year ago, at the regular session of the Trusteeship Council, the representatives of the Administering Authority and the Micronesians themselves talked about a broad programme of political education for the population of the Territory. One can imagine how broad the programme of this so-called political education has been when barely more than one and a half months have elapsed between the time the negotiations ended and the time the plebiscite is to be held. What is this programme of political education?

(Mr. Oleandrov, USSR)

The Soviet delegation has repeatedly asked the Administering Authority what place is given in this programme to an explanation of the right of the people of Micronesia to independence and of the advantages of such a status. The answer given by the Administering Authority has been that if the people of Micronesia reject the Compact, then - allegedly - the United States will consider the possibility of other options. What is in fact the inalienable right of peoples to independence has been transformed by the United States into something which is merely a foggy option.

But let us go back to the argument of the United States which was addressed to the Secretary-General in a letter on convening a special session of the Trusteeship Council. Here again, quite candidly, it is indicated that if the Micronesians do not approve of the Compact, then they can ask their Governments to conduct negotiations on independence or on closer relations with the United States. It is typical that what the United States is talking about is that they should just ask their Governments to conduct negotiations; it is not talking about their adopting sovereign decisions and expressing their will in keeping with their inalienable rights.

(Mr. Oleandrov, USSR)

Another outstanding fact is that at this special session of the Trusteeship Council we do not see any representatives of the Trust Territory whom we could ask: how far is this marathon of several plebiscites, as proposed by the United States, in keeping with the interests of the people of Micronesia, when the evidence which has reached the Trusteeship Council does not in the least confirm the statements of the Administering Authority?

On the matter of whether the Micronesians know about the contents of the Compact and of the supplementary agreements, whether they know what the forthcoming plebiscite will give them, there is something which serves as a rich illustration, namely, the telegram recently received by the Trusteeship Council from Palau, from Senators Uludong and Koshiha - and I would emphasize, not from simple inhabitants of the Territories but from Senators, who ought to know what is going on. In this telegram they ask the President of the Trusteeship Council what is the essence of the forthcoming plebiscite and what options, other than approval of the Compact, will be contained in the ballot for participants in the plebiscite. I am referring to document T/PET.10/202 of 19 November 1982.

The petitioners who spoke at our meeting yesterday rightly stated that the people of Micronesia are not prepared for the holding of the plebiscite. They emphasized that they were not talking about the objectivity of the observer mission which would be sent by the Trusteeship Council to Micronesia but, rather, about the events and about measures by the Administering Authority which would determine for a long historical period the fate of an entire colonial people. The petitioners were fully justified in saying that the holding of plebiscites in various parts of Micronesia represents yet another step towards the dismemberment, and consolidation of the fragmentation, of what is a single Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

On the basis of all that I have said, it is necessary to note that the plebiscites which the Administering Authority is preparing to hold in Micronesia are tendentious and cannot be considered legitimate for the following reasons.

(Mr. Oleandrov, USSR)

First of all, the population has not been prepared for them. They have not been given an explanation of such a major option as that of choosing independence for their country. Secondly, the plebiscite will be carried out, not under conditions of free choice, but rather under conditions of total dependence of the population of the Territory on the powers of the Administering Authority. Thirdly, the population of the country has not been informed either about the course of the negotiations or about the real need of those treaty relations on which they are being asked to express their opinion. Fourthly, the plebiscites themselves are instruments of an illegitimate dismemberment of a Trust Territory in violation of the Trusteeship Agreement and of the Declaration on decolonization. Fifthly, the conclusion of the Compact and of the accompanying agreements designed to change the status of the Trust Territory and the fate of the people of Micronesia, and the procedure for approving them by way of a plebiscite, have all been going on behind the back of the Security Council, without going to the Security Council, and that contradicts the United Nations Charter.

To summarize, I must say that what is being proposed to the Trusteeship Council and to its missions is that they confirm the results of plebiscites held in a Trust Territory that deal with a neo-colonial treaty being forced upon the people of that Trust Territory - that is, on a document which transforms a Trust Territory into a possession of the United States. The Council is being given a proposal to confirm the results of plebiscites whose entire preparation and organization are designed to achieve the expansionist goals of the Administering Authority, and the machinery for the plebiscites are unknown to the Trusteeship Council. In fact, the Trusteeship Council is being given the role of a body to rubber stamp the results of activities by the Administering Authority which are contrary to the Charter and which present the United Nations with a fait accompli.

The United Nations was at its best during the process of decolonization. It became the centre of world activity on that matter. But now the United States is trying to impose upon it the role of assistant in annexing a Trust Territory and in transforming it completely into a colonial territory. The Soviet Union

(Mr. Oleandrov, USSR)

cannot agree with such a role for the Trusteeship Council and for the United Nations. This role contradicts the spirit and the letter of the Charter of the United Nations; it contradicts the obligations assumed by the United Nations in exercising its trusteeship function over Micronesia; and it contradicts the Declaration on decolonization. Therefore, the Soviet delegation is against the establishment and the dispatching of one or more missions of the Trusteeship Council to observe the so-called plebiscites in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The delegation of the United States yesterday made a proposal that the visiting missions should also include representatives of States of the Pacific region which are not members of the Trusteeship Council. Today, the delegation of the United Kingdom introduced a draft resolution containing appropriate provisions for that. The Soviet delegation feels that that is unacceptable - first of all, on the basis of considerations of principle, it is not at all correct to send the proposed missions to Micronesia; and, secondly, because the inclusion in the missions of representatives of States which are not members of the Trusteeship Council would change the nature of the missions. Apart from the lack of justification for the financial aspects of such a decision, it would not be in keeping with our understanding of the constitutional aspects.

If the United States is interested in a trip by representatives of States from the Pacific region to Micronesia, then the United States can invite them independently of the Trusteeship Council. But to hide this tendentious political ploy behind the flag of the United Nations is unacceptable to the Soviet delegation and we object to it.

Micronesia is the last Trust Territory left on our planet. The question of its future is an integral part of the problem of decolonization and of granting colonial countries and peoples the right to self-determination and independence.

The Soviet delegation feels that the United Nations and its relevant organs, faced with arbitrary annexationist actions by the Administering Authority, should come to the defence of the inalienable right of the people of Micronesia, as acknowledged by the United Nations, to genuine - not fictitious - self-determination and independence, and should adopt measures stipulated by the United Nations Charter to disallow attempts to present the world with the fait accompli of transforming Micronesia into a new colony of the United States.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Both yesterday and today, several delegations have asked me to undertake consultations with States in the region to ascertain whether they would accept an invitation from the Trusteeship Council to take part in the visiting missions to observe the plebiscites in Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. If that is the wish of the Council, I am prepared to undertake these consultations and to report to the Council on them at its next meeting.

Mr. OLEANDROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): You have just said, Mr. President, that there would be consultations with States which may wish to participate in the mission and you have asked the Council whether it agrees to this. The position of my delegation has just been expressed in my statement. This is not agreeable to my delegation.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The position of the Soviet Government will be reflected in the record.

I take it that members of the Council do not wish to consider the draft resolution now. We shall do so at our next meeting, at which I shall also report on the consultations which some delegations have requested me to have with States in the Pacific region.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): At its next meeting the Council will consider and take a decision on item 4 of its agenda, that is to say, examination of petitions related to item 3 of the agenda. These petitions are to be found in documents T/COM.10/L.311, L.312 and L.313 and T/PET.10/202. A telegram dated 17 November 1982 which I sent in reply to the petition in document T/PET.10/202 appears in document T/1843.

We shall also take decisions on the petition received from the International League for Human Rights, which has been issued as document T/PET.10/203/Add.1, and the petition received from President Rameliik in the form of a telegram, which I read out earlier and which will be issued as document T/PET.10/205.

The meeting rose at 4.40 p.m.