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UNION COLECTION

Fifty-third Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 30 June 1986, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. RAPIN (France)

- Report of the Secretary-General on credentials
- Adoption of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council (Security Council resolution 70 (1949))
- Closure of the session

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The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CREDENTIALS (T/1900)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): May I take it that the Trusteeship Council decides to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on credentials, contained in document T/1900?

#### It was so decided.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL (Security Council resolution 70 (1949))

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As members will recall, the Trusteeship Council, on 4 June 1986, decided, in conformity with the procedure adopted at previous sessions of the Council, to suspend its session and to meet in resumed session to consider the Council's draft report to the Security Council. The draft report was transmitted to all members of the Council on 23 June 1986; members have thus had an opportunity to study it.

At this meeting, therefore, we shall consider and adopt that draft report.

As members will note from the draft report, Part I is entitled "Organization and Activities of the Trusteeship Council". In completing that part the Secretariat has followed the procedure adopted in previous years, that is, it has used the official verbatim records of the Council's meetings during the current session.

Members will also note that Part II of the report contains the Council's conclusions and recommendations which were adopted on 4 June 1986.

Several members have submitted changes to Part I of the report based on the verbatim records, and I shall read them out before we get into the voting process. Some of the changes were submitted in English and I shall read those out in the original language.

In paragraph 6, second line, after the word "and" replace "by" with "its".

The phrase would then read: "the Administering Authority and its Special...".

The next change relates to the title on page 5, between paragraphs 7 and 8 of the report: add "and the future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands".

The heading would then read: "B. Annual report of the Administering Authority and the future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands".

Delete the last sentence of paragraph 16, which reads: "The relationship of free association was also approved by each of the State legislatures of the Federated States of Micronesia."

The first change in paragraph 18 relates to the French version only: change the feminine form of representative to the masculine in the phrase "the representative of the United States"; secondly, replace "entities" in the third line with "constitutional Governments", as appears in the last sentence of the same paragraph.

Replace the word "meaningless" at the end of the first sentence in paragraph 26 with "inadequate".

The following change relates to a statement by the (Special Representative of the Administering Authority from the Northern Mariana Islands). Add the following sentence to paragraph 55:

"Accordingly, the Special Representative asked the Trusteeship Council to terminate the trusteeship with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands, without condition."

In paragraph 88, second line, delete the word "further" and insert:

"ensure that the Trust Territory shall play its part in the maintenance of";

the sentence would end with "international peace and security".

We come now to paragraph 90. In the last sentence, after "Soviet Union" change "the actions" to "all those actions"; and after the word "actions" delete "and plans of the United States Government". The sentence would then read: "As pointed out in the statement of 24 April 1986 by the Government of the Soviet Union, all those actions could lead to a serious increase of tension in the region."

Paragraph 97: at the end of the paragraph, the following sentence should be added in English:

"The results of the plebiscite cannot be regarded as a genuinely free expression of the will of the population in accordance with the Charter and the Declaration on Decolonization."

With regard to paragraph 102, in the first sentence replace the words "his delegation's position of principle" with the words "the position of principle of his country". At the beginning of the second sentence replace the words "His delegation" with the words "The Soviet Union". At the beginning of the last sentence, replace the words "United States" with "United Nations".

Mr. ROCHER (France) (interpretation from French): In paragraph 102, I would suggest that in each case where the pronoun "elle" appears it be replaced by the pronoun "il". This would, of course, affect only the French version.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I just stated that in the second sentence "Sa delegation" would be replaced by "L'Union sovietique". We are therefore no longer referring to the Soviet representative, but to the Soviet Union itself, and the pronoun would, accordingly, be changed to "elle" throughout the remainder of the paragraph.

We turn now to paragraph 119. In the fourth line of the English text, the word "assumed" should be replaced by "concluded".

In paragraph 167, the following sentences, which I shall read out in English, should be added at the end of the paragraph to complete the account of the statement by the representative of the Soviet Union:

"The plebiscite in Palau was aimed at camouflaging the anti-Charter actions of the United States in the strategic United Nations Trust Territory of Micronesia. Thus, a compact of free association cannot be considered as a legal one."

In paragraph 169, the second line, the words "granted to" should be replaced by the word "of". A period should be inserted after the word "freedom", and the words "by the Declaration" should be deleted.

In paragraph 175, in the second line of the English text, the words "in which he" should be deleted. A period should be inserted after the word "Territory" in the third line, and the remaining words in the sentence should be deleted.

In paragraph 201, the last sentence in the English text should begin with the words "In this regard", and the words "could make recommendations but" should be deleted.

The final change entails the insertion, following paragraph 207, of a new paragraph, which reads, in English, as follows:

"The representative of the Soviet Union stated that facts mentioned in the statement of the representative of the United States did not reflect the situation in the Trust Territory The United States actions violated the respect for principles and provisions of the United Nations Charter and the Declaration on Decolonization. The Soviet Union did not support the United States annexationist plan with regard to Micronesia. The United Nations, he concluded, should retain its responsibility over this Trust Territory until it achieves genuine independence."

That new paragraph would be numbered 208, and subsequent paragraphs would be re-numbered accordingly.

Mr. KUTOVOY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I wish to propose three additional amendments to incorporate points which, doubtless for technical reasons, were omitted from the draft text before us.

First, we propose the insertion at the end of paragraph 87 of the following sentence:

"As a result, the fundamental purposes and tasks of the international trusteeship system set up by the United Nations over Micronesia had not been fulfilled."

Secondly, in paragraph 94, after the words "Article 76 of the Charter", I propose the insertion of the following text:

"which stipulates the need to promote the political, economic and social advancement of the Trust Territories".

We feel it would be useful to inform the report's readers of the provisions of Article 76 of the Charter.

Finally, we propose the insertion of the following sentence at the end of paragraph 103, the better to reflect the statement made by the Soviet delegation:

"Micronesia, he concluded, should exercise its right to genuine self-determination and independence."

Mr. ROCHER (France) (interpretation from French): In his proposed amendment to paragraph 94, with reference to Article 76 of the Charter, the representative of the Soviet Union speaks of that Article's provisions regarding the promotion of the political, economic and social advancement of the Trust Territories. Would it not be preferable to quote the paragraph in question, Article 76 (b), in full?

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): May I ask the representative of France to read out the whole of Article 76 (b).

Mr. ROCHER (France) (interpretation from French): It reads as follows:

"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 as may be appropriate to the

particular circumstances of each territory and its peoples and the freely

expressed wishes of the peoples concerned, and as may be provided by the terms

of each trusteeship agreement".

Mr. MAXEY (United Kingdom): My delegation, too, would like to see the whole of Article 76 (b) of the Charter quoted in paragraph 94 of our report. I am sure the representative of the Soviet Union would not wish to suppress a large part of that very important paragraph of the Charter.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I am sure that everyone realizes that if we introduced Article 76 (b) it would be rather unwieldy for the reader to cope with. Therefore, I propose that we keep paragraph 94 as it is or add a footnote quoting the whole of Article 76 (b).

I understand that the second option would suit everyone, so we shall act accordingly.

May I take it that the requests made by the representative of the Soviet Union on paragraphs 87 and 103 are also acceptable?

## It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): If no delegation wishes to speak before the vote, I shall now put the Trusteeship Council's draft report to the Security Council, as amended in its final version, to the vote.

The draft report, as amended, was adopted by 3 votes to 1.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I shall now call on delegations wishing to explain their vote or to make a closing statement.

Mr. KUTOVOY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Today, with consideration of the Trusteeship Council's report to the Security Council and the vote on that report, the work of the Council's fifty-third session is concluding.

If we were to single out the main points of the present session's discussion of the complex of questions relating to the United Nations strategic Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, Micronesia, we would find that they reflect the fact that the United States is forcing matters to a situation in which the United Nations trusteeship will be replaced by the Territory's annexation. The United States has used the mandate given it by the Council and has not achieved the goals of the trusteeship provided for in the Charter or the Trusteeship Agreement.

By no criterion can the results of the so-called plebiscites carried out under conditions of direct pressure exerted by the Administering Authority be viewed as genuine self-determination or free expression of choice by the indigenous population of the Trust Territory, in accordance with the Charter and the Declaration on decolonization.

As the Soviet delegation has already noted, this session has seen the United States trying to cover up its annexationist designs with respect to Micronesia, to give them a semblance of legitimacy and international recognition. That is what has happened. We have had a report in which everything has been subordinated to one goal - legitimizing, allowing, the arbitrary, one-sided acts of the Administering Authority with respect to the strategic Trust Territory of Micronesia.

The report does not show the true state of affairs in any sphere - political, economic, social or spiritual - of the life of the population of the Trust Territory. In the section containing conclusions and recommendations the clearest ruses are used. However closely we may look, we can find nothing there to show that the Administering Authority has taken account of the true interests of the Micronesian people. There is the clear recommendation in paragraph 211 that

"the Administering Authority complete its internal process of approval of the Compact of Free Association for Palau at the earliest possible date."

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It is claimed that the Administering Authority has satisfactorily met its obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement and that it is therefore appropriate to terminate the Agreement.

Moreover, the report approves something which has been imposed on the Micronesians - an agreement involving virtual slavery, ensuring for the future Washington's undivided political and military control over all parts of Micronesia.

The Drafting Committee should have known, however, that the Trusteeship

Council is not authorized by its mandate under the Charter to take any decision

with respect to the status of a strategic Trust Territory of the United Nations.

The United States fragmentation and swallowing up of this United Nations Trust

Territory is yet one more demonstration of the fact that Washington is pursuing an imperialist, neo-colonialist course, in direct violation of the Charter, the

Trusteeship Agreement and the Declaration on decolonization.

The plans to perpetuate the American military presence on the Territory of Micronesia are aimed at ensuring control over an extensive region of the Pacific Ocean, posing a serious threat not only to the security of the countries and peoples of that large region, but also to international peace and security as a whole.

The report contains no adequate reflection of such an important matter as the Trusteeship Council's 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, even though many conclusions and recommendations of the Special Committee sent on 2 August last year to the President of the Trusteeship Council for the information of Council members relate directly to the strategic Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The primary feature was reaffirmation of the inalienable right of the people of Micronesia to self-determination and independence and of the importance of ensuring that the Administering Authority fulfils its obligations with respect to creating such conditions in the Trust Territory as will enable its people freely, and without any outside interference, to exercise that inalienable right to self-determination and independence.

The Special Committee also gives a reminder of its earlier appeals to the Administering Authority to give the people of Micronesia the fullest opportunity to receive information on, and be informed of, the various options open to them in exercising their right to self-determination and independence.

Finally, the Committee reaffirms its strong conviction that the presence in the Trust Territory of military bases and installations is a major obstacle to the implementation of the Declaration. That is also an important factor.

Guided by its position of principle on the question of Micronesia, the Soviet Union voted against the recommendation to end the Trusteeship Agreement and to approve an unequal relationship. It condemned the activities of the Administering Authority in Micronesia, which are depriving the Micronesian people of their right to genuine freedom, unity and independence. Those matters were all determining factors in the Soviet delegation's consideration of the draft report.

As we have already said, under Article 83 of the Charter all functions of the United Nations relating to strategic areas, including approval of the terms of the trusteeship agreements and their alteration or amendment, shall be exercised by the Security Council. Accordingly, any change in the status of a strategic Trust Territory, which Micronesia is, must be made out only on the authorization of the Security Council.

The Soviet Union fully shares the view of the Foreign Ministers of the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, expressed in their New Delhi Declaration of April this year, that the task of eliminating the system of colonialism requires the elimination of the hotbed of colonialism in Micronesia as well. We support the demand of those countries for the immediate implementation of the Declaration on Decolonization and its application to Micronesia as well.

The use of Micronesia by the United States in the interests of its own neo-globalist policy and its militarization of the Territory, as well as the Administering Authority's deployment in the Territory of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction, pose a serious threat, not only to the people of Micronesia, but to the countries of the Asian and Pacific regions as a whole. All of that is being done in violation of the decisions taken by the countries members of the South East Asian Forum to declare the Pacific region a nuclear-weapon-free zone. It is the duty of all States guided by the interests of peace and security to oppose the exacerbation of tension in the area that would inevitably result if Micronesia were turned into a military and nuclear rocket base.

The Soviet Union is convinced that the United Nations must retain its responsibility over this Trust Territory until it achieves a genuine independence and not a fictitious governmental status in the form of so-called free association and co-operation, a status that is, in essence, nothing but a new form of colonialism.

Mr. ROCHER (France) (interpretation from French): My delegation has listened closely to the statement just made by the representative of the Soviet Union, and particularly to his specific reference to Article 83 of the Charter. In that connection, I should like to recall the position of my delegation.

As a member of the Trusteeship Council and a permanent member of the Security Council, we have followed the political, social and economic evolution of Micronesia from its designation as a strategic Trust Territory in 1947 up to the present day. France therefore recognizes that significant progress has been made. Although the Territory's economic and social development has been slower than its political evolution, it is none the less true that the results of the actions taken by the Administering Authority in the Territory are, by and large, positive.

## (Mr. Rocher, France)

We in the Council have all followed those developments, the most important of which have occurred in the political field. That progress is typified by the way in which locally elected officials have progressively taken over their own affairs and future. The constitutional authorities of the Trust Territory have thus been able to demonstrate their political maturity and their ability to govern themselves. The peoples of Micronesia too have demonstrated their own political maturity through the 1975 referendum in the Northern Marianas Islands, the 1983 referendum in the Marshall Islands and referendums in the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau.

The peoples of all those islands have thus exercised their right to self-determination, independence being one of the options available to them. The vast majority exercised their free choice in favour of Commonwealth status with the Administering Authority. That option was part of the principle of the equal rights and self-determination of peoples enshrined in the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States in accordance with Charter of the United Nations, General Assembly resolution

2625 (XXV) and as set forth in Principles VI and VII of the Annex to General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV).

My delegation also noted that the Administering Authority endorsed the firm request made by representatives of the constitutional authorities of the Trust Territory to remove the Trusteeship status. In the light of that attitude, which was supported by the representatives of the southern Pacific States, my Government has stated its support for the expressed wish for an end to the Trusteeship. That is why my country was a sponsor of Trusteeship Council resolution 2183 (LXIII), which considers

(Mr. Rocher, France)

"that the Administering Authority has satisfactorily discharged its obligations under the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement and that it is appropriate for that Agreement to be terminated".

In his statement, the representative of the Soviet Union made reference to Article 83 of the Charter. If we read that Article, we find that its third paragraph states:

"The Security Council shall ... avail itself of the assistance of the Trusteeship Council to perform those functions of the United Nations under the trusteeship system relating to political, economic, social and educational matters in the strategic areas."

Pursuant to that paragraph, on 7 March 1949 the Security Council adopted resolution 70 (1949), which expressly requested the Trusteeship Council

"to perform in accordance with its own procedures, on behalf of the Security Council, the functions specified in Articles 87 and 88 of the Charter relating to the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of such strategic areas"

and

"to submit to the Security Council its reports and recommendations on political, economic, social and educational matters".

Gauging the proper moment for the Organization to terminate the Trusteeship

Agreement with regard to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands implies that

some judgement be made with regard to the political, economic, social and

educational circumstances in the Territory, which the Trusteeship Council is

authorized to do under Article 83 of the Charter and by Security Council resolution

70 (1949), whose provisions demonstrate, if need be, the competence of the

Trusteeship Council to deal with such matters.

(Mr. Rocher, France)

I cannot end my statement without expressing my gratification at the adoption today of our report to the Security Council.

Mr. President, I should like to take this opportunity to thank you for the extremely competent, remarkably effective and responsible way in which you were kind enough to direct our discussions. It was a pleasure for me to work with you.

I should also like to thank the other delegations for their co-operation and spirit of conciliation.

Mr. MAXEY (United Kingdom): We are approaching the end of a historic session of the Council. The Council has responded to the unanimous demand of the elected representatives of the Micronesian Governments for termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. The central message of our report to the Security Council which we have just adopted requires no elaboration.

Unlike my colleague from the Soviet Union, I feel no compulsion to repeat yet again what we have said in this Council many times before about the need to respect the freely expressed wishes of the people of Micronesia concerning their constitutional future. I would only make clear my delegation's satisfaction at the outcome of our deliberations during this session. Our report to the Security Council reflects what the people of Micronesia want. What else, after all, should it reflect? It has once again been made clear in the statement just delivered by the representative of the Soviet Union that his delegation is not in fact guided by this consideration. His Government would prefer to subordinate the wishes of the peoples of Micronesia to the political and ideological objectives of the Soviet Union in relation to the United States. The Soviet Union wishes to exploit

Micronesia in the East-West context, so its representatives talk about the interests, rather than the wishes, of the inhabitants; that is an old tactic of the opponents of self-determination.

The Soviet representative has even gone so far, if I understood him correctly, as in effect to deny the validity of the Council's resolution 2183 (LIII) of 28 May 1986. There is no basis in the Charter for the Soviet contention that the Trusteeship Council has acted in any way improperly in adopting that resolution. Indeed, the very fact that the Soviet delegation voted against it when it was put to the vote, rather than oppose its presentation, shows that that delegation accepted the resolution's validity in principle even though it opposed its substance.

As my French colleague has pointed out, the actions of the Trusteeship Council during this session have fully conformed with Article 83 of the Charter, and I entirely endorse his comments.

Mr. President, I extend to you my warmest congratulations on the excellent way in which you have presided over our meetings. You have borne an unusually heavy burden and your skill and diplomacy have contributed in large measure to the success of this session. You have been scrupulously fair and impartial. You have displayed immeasurable patience with all of us. You have been courteous and unfailingly helpful. Above all, you have maintained the very happy atmosphere of the Trusteeship Council for which we all have reason to be grateful - and I say so in all sincerity.

Finally, I thank all members of the Secretariat who during this session once again worked hard and served the Council well, not least by producing our report to the Security Council so guickly.

# (Mr. Maxey, United Kingdom)

I address a particular word of thanks to Mr. Abebe, our Secretary; he has been the mainstay of the Trusteeship Council for very many years. My delegation deeply appreciates his advice and assistance.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): I am pleased to have this last opportunity to address the Council at this historic session.

While I deeply regret the statement made earlier this morning by our Soviet colleague, I have decided not to respond yet again to his endless repetition of unfounded charges. I disagree with his analysis of the facts and the conclusions that he draws. But he cannot detract from the moving statements made to the Council by the representatives of the Micronesian Governments or from the decisions that the Council has taken.

As Ambassador Walters noted when he addressed the Council on 16 May, the message that came through in the statements of our Micronesian friends was unmistakable: terminate the trusteeship and do it without delay. The Trusteeship Council's decision recognizing that it is appropriate to terminate the United Nations trusteeship over Micronesia is a gratifying and proper response to that plea. It is also a clear recognition of the validity of the process of self-determination which the peoples of Micronesia have pursued. In plebiscites observed by the United Nations that were judged free, fair and without any influence by the Administering Authority and which embraced the full range of status options, including independence, the peoples of Micronesia have made their own choices.

I am certain that I was not the only member of the Council who was deeply moved, not just by the passion and forcefulness with which the elected representatives of the Micronesian Governments called for the termination of the

## (Miss Byrne, United States)

Trusteeship Agreement, but also by the eloquence in unity of their Pacific neighbours who spoke in their support. Any delay by the United Nations in granting the response that these pleas so obviously merit would be a travesty of the process of self-determination that this Council has to date so successfully overseen. I am delighted that the Council has responded to their appeal.

Lastly, I should like once again to thank you, Mr. President, for your superb stewardship of the Council in a difficult time. Also, I thank all members of the Secretariat for their unselfish and excellent service to us and the Council.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I call on the representative of the Soviet Union, who wishes to speak in exercise of the right of reply.

Mr. KUTOVOY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My delegation would not have asked to speak again had it not been for the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom. He sketched a distorted picture of the true situation and of the position of the Soviet Union as regards the issue of Micronesia.

We wish once again to recall that our principled approach to the issue of the strategic Trust Territory of Micronesia has never been formulated in the context of the general East-West conflict. Our position of principle on this matter has been consistently determined by our approach to the whole question of decolonization. It is precisely on that basis that the delegation of the Soviet Union addresses the very important issue of the present and future status of the strategic Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In no way do we oppose the concept that the Trusteeship Council has specific functions and mandates in the matter before us, but we must stress yet again that in keeping with its mandate under the Charter of the United Nations the Trusteeship Council is not authorized to take any decisions concerning the determination or alteration of the status of the United Nations

Strategic Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The Soviet Union has consistently advocated that the people of Micronesia be granted all the conditions necessary for them to determine their own status, without outside intervention, through an act of true self-determination. The Soviet Union is convinced that the United Nations must retain its responsibility for this strategic Trust Territory until the achievement of genuine independence.

In conclusion, my delegation expresses its gratitude to you, Sir, for your guidance of the Council's work during this session. Frankly, it was not an easy session, but your leadership helped us to overcome the difficulties that arose.

We should like also to express our gratitude to the members of the Secretariat staff for the great professional skill they manifested in their work during this session. In particular, we thank the interpreters for the excellence with which they carried out their responsibilities.

Mr. ROCHER (France) (interpretation from French): My delegation formally challenges the Soviet delegation's analysis of the authority of the Trusteeship Council. Previously, I referred to Article 83 of the Charter and to Security Council resolution 70 (1949), and explained why the Trusteeship Council has full authority.

I would further recall principles VI and VII annexed to General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV). Principle VI reads as follows:

"A Non-Self-Governing Territory can be said to have reached a full measure of self-government by:

- "(a) Emergence as a sovereign independent State;
- "(b) Free association with an independent State; or
- "(c) Integration with an independent State".

Principle VII states, inter alia, that

"Free association should be the result of a free and voluntary choice by the peoples of the territory concerned expressed through informed and democratic processes". (General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV), annex)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I wish to respond to the kind words of representatives by thanking all delegations for their co-operation. I appreciated it; it facilitated our work during an important session, which, thanks to each and every representative, was in the end not too difficult for me.

I thank the members of the Secretariat, particularly my friend Girma Abebe and his staff, as well as the interpreters and translators.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I declare closed the fifty-third session of the Trusteeship Council.

The meeting rose at 12.20 p.m.