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Fifty-first session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FIFTEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTIETH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Tuesday, 22 May 1984, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. RAPIN (France)

Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1983: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued)

Examination of petitions listed in the annex to the agenda (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1983; TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1863; T/L.1240 and Add.1) (continued)

EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS LISTED IN THE ANNEX TO THE AGENDA (see T/1864/Add.1) (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Members will recall that during the hearing of petitioners last week three petitioners - Mr. Jonathan Weisgall, Mr. Edward Temengil and Father William Wood - asked that copies of documents referred to in their respective statements should be distributed to the members of the Trusteeship Council. The documents are now available and the Conference Officer will distribute them to members.

Furthermore, in response to a request made by Council members, the representative of the United States has provided statistical information with regard to payments made to the people of Bikini. The Conference Officer will also distribute to members of the Council the paper containing that information.

Members will have noted from document T/PET.10/308 that Mr. Balerio Pedro of Palau had asked to present an oral petition, concerning the Angaur phosphate claims, to the Trusteeship Council at its current session. Mr. Pedro was informed by the secretariat, in a telegram, of the dates set aside for the hearing of petitioners, but no further communication has been received from him.

In accordance with the Council's decision taken at its 1569th meeting, last Friday, we shall proceed to examine written petitions and communications concerning the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. These communications and written petitions have been distributed to delegations in documents T/COM.10/L.341 to 352 and T/PET.10/299 to 307 and 311 to 316. If there is no objection, I shall present these communications and petitions for Council decision en bloc, in accordance with the procedure adopted in previous years.

Does any member wish to make comments on any of the communications in documents T/COM.10/L.341 to 352? If there are no comments and if there is no objection, I propose that the Council decide to take note of the communications and petitions in documents T/COM.10/L.341 to 352.

It was so decided.

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The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall now proceed with the examination en bloc of the written petitions in documents T/PET.10/299 to 307 and 311 to 316. If there are no comments on those petitions, the Council will now take a decision on them.

Members will note that there are two categories of written petitions, namely, those requesting action by the Trusteeship Council, which are contained in documents T/PET.10/302, 304, 305, 306 and 313, and those requesting action by the Administering Authority, which are contained in documents T/PET.10/299 to 301, 303, 307, 311, 312 and 314 to 316.

If there is no objection, I propose that the Council decide, with regard to documents T/PET.10/299 to 301, 303, 307, 311, 312 and 314 to 316, to draw the attention of the petitioners to the observations made by the representatives of the Administering Authority at the current session, as appropriate.

With regard to the petitions contained in documents T/PET.10/302, 304, 305, 306 and 313, which are addressed to the Council, I propose that, at this stage of our work, the Council take note of them.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): With regard to the hearing of petitioners, I would recall that at our 1567th meeting, last Thursday, I referred to a request for a hearing made by Ms. Susanne Roff of the Minority Rights Group of New York. Ms. Roff has requested to be heard as a petitioner and also to be allowed to present to the Council extracts from a film entitled Strategic Trust.

I quoted the relevant rules from the Council's rules of procedure concerning oral petitions, which indicate that these should be submitted exclusively in the form of oral statements, and I pointed out that the Council would take a decision later on this matter.

After doing the necessary checking, I asked the secretariat of the Council to inform Ms. Roff that I did not intend to authorize the showing of extracts from the film concerned at an official meeting of the Council. I do not believe that the extracts, which I have seen, contain any information that could not be submitted orally to the Council by the petitioner in accordance with the Council's rules that I cited.

However, I wish to inform the members of the Council that I have requested the secretariat to take steps to enable members of delegations wishing to see the film

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(The President)

before hearing Ms. Roff's petition to do so. The film will therefore be screened in studio 4 at 12.30 p.m. today, at which time I propose to adjourn this meeting. Ms. Roff will be permitted to address the Council at 3 p.m. today.

The Council will now resume its consideration of the annual report of the Administering Authority and members will continue to put questions to the representatives of the Administering Authority.

Mrs. COCHEME (France) (interpretation from French): My first question concerns a point raised by the Vice-President of Palau in one of his statements. Mr. Oiterong informed us that the inhabitants of Palau wanted a new hospital built but that, unfortunately, the \$18 million appropriation requested - if I remember the figure correctly - was refused. Similarly a \$4.5 million appropriation for electrical power that had been scheduled was diverted elsewhere by the Administering Authority. Could the Administering Authority give the reasons for the refusal or non-scheduling of the appropriations and tell us whether these amounts will be put back in the budget within a short period and whether these public health and energy projects will be financed?

Mr. SHERMAN (United States of America): I should like the High Commissioner to answer those questions.

Mrs. MCCOY (Special Representative): In the field of capital improvements there was some reprogramming. As far as the hospital was concerned, the current funding for the renovation of their present hospital is \$430,000. They were also given an appropriation of \$430,000 for the designing of their new hospital. They are just now completing that design and it has not gone to bids yet. Congress has been waiting until they could come out with their final design for the new hospital. It was brought up at the congressional budget hearings two weeks ago in Washington and I am sure that it is now being considered down there. Their design has been a long time in coming but they now have it pretty well in hand.

As far as power is concerned, as I believe the Council knows, Palau has entered into an agreement with IPSECO, the British firm that built the power plant in the Marshall Islands. Palau now has a contract with them to have a power plant built in Palau also. There is also to be another power plant in Airai, which is also in Palau. An amount of \$4.5 million had been set aside. There was a different power plant, one that was ready to go, but when they decided they did not want that and wanted to go to IPSECO, the money was reprogrammed.

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Mrs. COCHEME (France) (interpretation from French): I should like to ask a question which has to do with figures again, but this time with population figures. The report of the Administering Authority begins with a map giving the population of the islands. We know that there has been an inversion, which has highlighted an important fact concerning Palau: the island which in 1979 had a population of 14,320 had only 12,116 inhabitants in 1980 - a drop of about 15 per cent. On the other hand, the population of the Marshall Islands went from 28,720 to 30,873 - an increase of about 7.5 per cent.

My delegation would like to know what the situation in these two island groups is today and how the broad swings observed can be explained.

Mrs. McCOY (Special Representative): Concerning the Palau figures, when the census was first taken they came out with a figure of 12,000. They did some further checking and discovered that they had missed quite a few people. The correct figure, which is now being used for the population of Palau, is 14,000.

As far as the swings in population are concerned, I think there are several reasons for them. As the centres have grown and as more industry has started up there, it has brought more and more people into them from the outer islands and indeed there is some flow of traffic back and forth from, for instance, Palau into the Marianas. As transportation has become easier we have seen people shift from one place to another. I would think that that would be the main reason for the swings in population. Could Mr. Uherbelau from Palau add to that?

Mr. UHERBELAU (Adviser): What the High Commissioner has just said is true. The main reason for the shift of population in Palau has been migration outside Palau to either Guam or Saipan or else to the United States mainland.

Mrs. COCHEME (France) (interpretation from French): My question has to do with a point that is essential in our opinion, that is, education. A very big educational effort has been made for some years now by the Administering Authority. However, there now seem to be problems as regards the islands' capacity to keep for themselves and for their own development the intelligence and know-how thus acquired.

Having read part VIII of the report with interest, my delegation would like the Administering Authority to draw up a balance sheet of their activities in this area. We should particularly like to know, on the one hand, the progress made in the teaching of English since 1982 - the Visiting Mission found inadequacies in

(Mrs. Cochemé, France)

this area - and, on the other hand, what is the proportion of persons native to the islands who have followed courses of higher education and are now living and working in the Territory?

Mrs. McCOY (Special Representative): I should like the individual Micronesian Governments to answer that since education is now in their hands.

Mr. GUERRERO (Special Adviser): What we can say for the Northern Marianas and educational progress is that as it stands now the local vernacular - what we call the bilingual programme - is being taught from the first grade to the third or fourth grade. During this period English is also taught as a second language. After the fourth grade, English is the medium of instruction and in the public schools, which cover grades 1 to 12, education is free and we are talking of probably 99 per cent of the students attending school. After they graduate from high school, they go on to higher education on Saipan, where we have the Northern Marianas College, which was established by an executive order and finally sanctioned by our legislature in January 1983. As of last August, about 18 students had graduated with an AA degree. There are a substantial number of students that go abroad for higher education in Guam, Hawaii and the United States mainland and most of them, about 98 per cent, return and work in the Northern Marianas Government and in the private sector.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Adviser): The trend of educational development in Palau mirrors the system in the Northern Marianas. We have five high schools altogether, four private and one public. We also have the Micronesian Occupational College, providing post-secondary education, which is located in Palau but which accepts students from the Marshalls and the Federated States of Micronesia. At the elementary school level we have two private schools and a number of public schools.

We also have a bilingual programme from first grade to third grade, and English is the language taught at all the schools from the first grade up to the twelfth grade.

Mr. SPITZ (France) (interpretation from French): We should like now to put a few questions on matters of economics to the Administering Authority. The first concerns agriculture. The solution of co-operatives has often been put forward in reports to the Council. We know that such structures exist in a number of the islands, but my delegation would like an overall picture of the situation in this regard - that is, what the degree of development of co-operatives in the /...

(Mr. Spitz, France)

various zones of the Territory is, what share of agricultural output and exports is accounted for by the co-operative sector, and, above all, what future the Administering Authority sees for this sector in the development of agriculture in the Trust Territory.

Mrs. McCOY (Special Representative): Co-operatives have long been a part of Micronesian life, and they have been highly successful. We have them for all kinds of products, including handicrafts. There is a very large one in Truk. We have done many things. For instance, honey has become quite a product in Saipan, and it is exported to several places.

I should like the individual Governments to answer this question, because they can bring the Council up to date on the situation and what kind of co-ops they have.

Mr. TUDELA (Special Adviser): It is our Government's policy to encourage the development of agriculture and fisheries. Since the implementation of the food stamp programme in July 1982 there has been an increase in agricultural and fishing productivity, because of the unique requirement that 25 per cent of the food we purchase must be of local origin.

We do not have a co-op on the islands of the Northern Marianas, but we have a farmers market, at which we sell a great deal of local produce to the various private sectors.

A minor problem of our agriculture is the melon fly. We have asked the Administering Authority to provide funding for the eradication of the melon fly in the small island of Rota.

Mr. AMARAICH (Special Representative): As a matter of policy, the Federated States Government wants to promote, and is promoting, the development of agriculture. Farmers co-operatives or farmers markets are to be found in each of the four States. There is a private school at the high school level in Ponape, which concentrates primarily on agricultural and automechanic training. That school is turning out very good young men trained for village agriculture.

There is a problem with regard to production, first, because of a lack of markets outside the area. I believe that in Kosrae there is also the problem mentioned by the representative of the Northern Marianas - the restriction on the importation of Kosraen foods into, I think, Kwajalein, which is a potential market. I do not know the reason for that restriction; it is probably a United States regulation.

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(Mr. Amaraich, Special Representative)

The aim is, primarily, to promote the production of fruits and agricultural products for family, village and island consumption. The next step is to find markets for the excess and to try to find a way to assure the producers that when they produce more than the local people can consume they will have a market for the excess.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Adviser): It is also the policy of the Government of Palau to promote agricultural and marine development and to replace imports by exports.

We reported last year and the year before on the OISCA farm operation in Palau. This is a Japanese organization which brings in 16 to 20 young men and women and trains them in agricultural techniques. Some of them are also sent to Japan for a year or two and then return to join the organization. This programme has been successful, in that many vegetable products are being raised under the programme and then sold in the stores in Koror and elsewhere in Palau.

As regards marine development, we have four fishing co-operatives, all made up of Palauan fishermen and fisherwomen, catching reef fish - as opposed to tuna and other deep-water fish. The fish products are being exported from Palau to Honolulu and Guam, and the manager of one fishing co-operative has just returned from a trip to Taiwan and the Philippines, where he explored possibilities of exporting reef fish to those two areas as well.

Finally, for some years the United States Department of Agriculture high school in Airai state has had a poultry farm and this provides eggs on a regular basis to all the stores and hotels in Palau.

Mrs. McCOY (Special Representative): I should like to provide some figures for the Marshalls too. They also have their co-operatives. I call attention once more to our annual report, in which members will find statistics on copra for two of the three Governments.

As to the Marshalls themselves, they have the Majuro fishermen's co-operative, whose sales in 1981 totalled \$103,322. They also have copra-cake, coconut oil, handicrafts and other co-operative ventures. Thus, agriculture is indeed coming to be of increasing importance to the economic recovery of the islands.

Mr. GUERRERO (Special Adviser): We just want to mention that in the Northern Marianas, through the assistance of the Administering Authority, we have what we call the Economic Development Loan Fund. A certain percentage of the money

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(Mr. Guerrero, Special Adviser)

in this Loan Fund can be used only for agricultural development and fishery development.

Mr. SPITZ (France) (interpretation from French): Still on the subject of economic development, there is one industry which seems to us to be particularly important, and that is construction. The 1982 Visiting Mission made some criticism of the choice of building materials. The standards used for these materials were United States durability standards, and this meant that in practice local materials were rejected. My delegation would like to know what has happened in this area since 1982 and, more generally, regarding infrastructure projects, what share of the work has gone to the local economy through small builders or suppliers.

Mrs. MCCOY (Special Representative): Our primary thought in the use of materials throughout Micronesia is directly related to the typhoons that we have. The design of almost all of our construction is based on materials that will withstand some of the terrific typhoons that we get throughout all of Micronesia. That is probably the only answer I can come up with as far as the kind of materials that we use is concerned.

As to local construction companies, an increasing number of people on the islands are now doing a lot of their own building. On Kosrae a small hotel was put up and the work was done strictly by a local construction company. There are other things as well and I think we might go into the Economic Development Loan Fund. Here again, I would defer to the representatives of the individual Governments, who would have a better idea of the position regarding local builders and local contractors.

Mr. GUERRERO (Special Adviser): With reference to the use of local materials, we do, I believe use them to a certain extent, but I agree with the High Commissioner that we try to make the buildings more practical and more economical because of the typhoons. We use local materials such as rocks and stones, and there is a substantial amount of construction going on in the Northern Marianas, basically in the private sector, such as the building of homes, and a hotel is going up right now. So there is quite a bit of activity going on in the Northern Marianas as far as construction is concerned, and we are working towards improving the infrastructure and using local materials in building highways and paved roads.

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Mr. AMARAICH (Special Representative): Like the other Governments, the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia is making efforts to use local materials for construction. Two of the hotels in Ponape are built of purely local materials. We are also encouraging handicrafts and the manufacture of furniture for the office and the home using local materials. These are being made in Ponape especially, where we have a number of sawmills in the villages which turn the mangroves into lumber - two-by-fours or two-by-threes - which is used for local construction.

There is an ongoing study to see if we can utilize the soil. There is a project in connection with laterite soil, which apparently can make the mud that we have in Ponape into bricks to be used for construction. These are supposed to be very strong and typhoon-proof. We are looking at this with the assistance of some organizations outside the Federated States of Micronesia. Of course, we use sand and gravel, which come from local areas, the beaches and the mountains.

So an effort is being made, and over the years there has been a varying degree of emphasis on forestry, on developing trees that will mature within a number of years and can then be used for local construction. We are emphasizing that, and in each state an effort is being made at least to have a forestry officer. We have been assisted by the United States Government in trying to develop our forestry programme, especially in Kosrae and Ponape.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Adviser): I have nothing very much to add to what the two previous speakers have said regarding the construction area. Construction materials are imported from outside, of course, because we have very limited lumber and trees available. However, in the island of Babeldaop, for instance, mangrove trees are used in building their houses. When it comes to the construction of such things as hotels and big office buildings, we have to rely on lumber, cement and other construction materials from outside. A local brick-making company has been in existence for two years now, and we have a number of locally-owned construction companies. It is Government policy, to award contracts for such things as the extension work at the airport, to major foreign construction companies, but under the terms of the contract such companies are supposed to, and do, sub-contract construction work to local companies.

Mr. SPITZ (France) (interpretation from French): With regard to foreign trade, we should like to know what the present system is concerning import rights in the Territory and what the position of the Administering Authority is in this

(Mr. Spitz, France)

field. I remember that a recommendation was made by the Visiting Mission and taken up by the Council at its last session concerning the establishment of a system of import duties which would help the development of the Territory. What is the position of the Administering Authority in this field?

Ms. McCOY (Special Representative): We have given considerable encouragement to foreign trade. I think that one of the most important things is the fact that all of the Trust Territory is now eligible for the special dispensation that we refer to as headnote 3A. This means that anything that is made within the island - although it varies by a certain percentage of added value depending on whether it is textiles, handicrafts, garments or whatever - is eligible for the special benefits under headnote 3A. This means that those items, can be imported into the United States with no tax. This benefit has encouraged a lot of industry to come in and locate within the islands.

I would suggest that, since the individual Governments are making so many of their own decisions concerning the priorities and the handling of their own affairs, they might be asked to comment on foreign trade.

Mr. TUDELA (Special Adviser): In the case of the Northern Marianas, because we have a very close political affiliation with the United States, we have many investors interested in the Commonwealth. At present attracting investment is of no less concern to us than regulating growth and development in a careful, productive way. We must be sure that our infrastructure can keep up our tax system and be progressive, and that our business reputation internationally is maintained.

As for United States investment, we would like to see United States mainland investment use headnote 3A industry as well as the foreign sales corporation.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Adviser): As we reported in our opening statement, our national congress has just enacted a uniform tax code. In that law we have raised import taxes almost 100 per cent. Except for imported food items, everything that is brought in from the outside is subject to import taxes. In the foreign trade area we have reported that we have had a grant-in-aid from the Government of Japan over the past two years and this year as well to the tune of \$3 million. We have also reported that we have a contract with IPSECO, the United Kingdom company, which is putting up our power plant.

In the fisheries area, we have also reported that we have signed fishing agreements with a private fisheries association in Japan. Together with the

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(Mr. Uherbelau, Adviser)

Federated States of Micronesia we have a fishing agreement with the American tuna boat association.

Mr. SPITZ (France) (interpretation from French): My last question has to do with statistics. It is a problem that our delegation raised quite early on. With regard to the statistics in the report of the Administering Authority, we are aware of the difficulty in collecting this type of information, but it is particularly difficult for people working on these reports to get an overall view of the situation since the figures given are not homogenous for the whole Territory and the indicators can vary from one year to another. Therefore, I should like to ask the representative of the Administering Authority whether it would not be simpler and more useful for everyone to have in future a sort of minimum standard table of statistics that would appear systematically in the report each year for each entity in the Territory.

In our previous statement we mentioned a number of indicators that could appear in such a table, but there is something even simpler than that. The United Nations publishes each year a statistical review entitled World Statistics in Brief in which for all countries there are some very simple, even elementary, but nevertheless essential data. I have available for members photocopies of the information provided in this book. It contains statistics on demography, national accounting, agriculture, industry, foreign trade, tourism, communications and transport. These are very simple figures which do not really require any sophisticated background. We believe that if we could find these data in the annual report of the Administering Authority, our work would be greatly facilitated. I would like to point out here that this would not prejudice other statistical data now contained in the report, which contribute greatly to the work of the Council. It would merely be a question of adopting a minimum standard of data regularly provided to the Council to give it a coherent tool of reference.

Mrs. McCOY (Special Representative): I welcome the comments from the representative of France. The criticism is certainly well taken. As I said earlier, we have tried to do our best, but I think his suggestion for using the standard type of forms that seem to be used throughout the United Nations is useful. If that is agreeable to the Council, we will indeed use them as guidelines for our future reports.

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The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I presume that the Council would perhaps like to raise this question when we make our recommendations.

Would any other delegation like to address questions to the Administering Authority?

Mr. GRIGUTIS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation has studied the report of the Administering Authority submitted to the Trusteeship Council, and we have listened attentively to the statements that have been made by the representatives of the Administering Authority, as well as those of the people from the Trust Territory and the petitioners. We feel that many of the petitioners submitted very important and valuable information, which supplements what appears in the report and other documents. Perhaps the petitioners' information was not much to the liking of the representatives of the Administering Authority and, therefore, they expressed the view that some petitioners were biased and not sufficiently informed about what was going on in the Trust Territory, but the Soviet delegation attaches great importance to the statements that were made here by the petitioners during the meetings we have had in the Trusteeship Council.

On the basis of the documents submitted to the Trusteeship Council and the statements made, to which I referred, we have before us a picture of the events that are taking place in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. On this basis, the Soviet delegation has a number of questions directly related to the report of the Administering Authority and the statements made.

I should like first perhaps to address a few general questions to the Administering Authority and then I would like to go into some more detail. In the introductory part of the report there is a very brief mention of the way the Administering Authority has divided the Trust Territory into various districts and induced those districts into talks with a view to termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. We are of the view, with regard to the trusteeship of the United Nations, that the Trusteeship Agreement was elaborated by the Security Council of the United Nations, in accordance with Article 83 of the Charter of the United Nations, which says that any alteration or amendment of the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement shall be exercised by the Security Council.

(Mr. Griqutis, USSR)

Why, therefore, we ask, has the Administering Authority held talks concerning termination of the United Nations trusteeship in the strategic territory of the Pacific islands, not in the Security Council but with separate parts of the Trust Territory? Why was this done, circumventing the Security Council, and what, in the opinion of the Administering Authority, is the role of the Security Council here?

Mr. SHERMAN (United States of America): Under article 6, paragraph 1, of the Trusteeship Agreement, the United States is obligated to:

"... promote the development of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory towards self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of the Trust Territory and its peoples and the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned".

The responsibility of the Administering Authority therefore lies in the area of fostering political development and administrative and governmental capabilities so that the peoples of Micronesia may be prepared to assume a post-trusteeship political status of their own choosing.

The formation of the constitutional governments in the Trust Territory is a development of the people themselves. The political separation between the various entities within the Trust Territory occurred as a result of the clearly expressed will of the people in referendums observed and judged fair by the Trusteeship Council.

The Congress of Micronesia conducted a referendum in July 1978 observed by a Trusteeship Council Visiting Mission to determine whether the six districts of the Trust Territory would accept a constitution drawn up under its own auspices. The terms of the referendum were established by the Congress of Micronesia and specified that adoption of the Constitution was to be on a district-by-district basis. The Constitution was approved by four of the six districts and was thus adopted by those four districts. Because of their rejection of the Constitution, it became necessary for the remaining two districts, Palau and the Marshall Islands, to adopt their own constitutions. These developments are the result of the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of Micronesia and are fully consistent, we believe, with their right to self-determination, in accordance with the Trusteeship Agreement.

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(Mr. Sherman, United States)

The free association negotiations with the three commissions proceeded in a manner that maintained absolute neutrality both before and after the 12 July 1978 referendum, when each of the districts ultimately decided whether to join the Federated States of Micronesia. The outcome of the referendums, of course, definitively established the framework of all subsequent negotiations.

We have made numerous statements before with respect to our view of the role of the Security Council and I would like to reaffirm them. It is the intention of the United States Government at the appropriate time to take up the matter of termination first with the Trusteeship Council and subsequently with the Security Council, inasmuch as the Security Council, under the Charter, is responsible for the administration of strategic trusts, of which the Trust Territory is the sole one approved by the United Nations trusteeship system. We have addressed this question at least in all of the sessions of the Trusteeship Council in which I have participated, and our position really remains the same.

I think the issue of so-called fragmentation of the Trust Territory is in many senses a fictitious one. The Trust Territory is a geographical entity; it is not a political entity, nor is it an anthropological or social entity. These are people of varying traditions and various cultures. Although they happen to live in the same general geographical area, it should be borne in mind that that geographical area is in reality immense, covering millions of square miles of ocean, island and atoll, and quite naturally, the peoples of the various parts of the area have differing attitudes towards themselves and their own cultures, towards their neighbours, towards their relations with the Administering Authority during the trusteeship period, and towards their role in the world at such time as they choose self-determination, either through Compact of Free Association, commonwealth - as of the Northern Marianas - or other political status.

We are fully conscious of all of our obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement and under the Charter and we will not fail to carry those out with punctiliousness and responsibility.

Mr. GRIGUTIS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Thank you for this answer, although I do not think it fully satisfies us. But from this comes my next question.

The petitioners that spoke here, and other people, said that the Trust Territory was fully dependent on the United States financially. So a question /...

(Mr. Grigutis, USSR)

arises. In these conditions, when in the economic and financial field the Trust Territory is dependent on the Administering Authority, can the representatives of various parts of the Trust Territory defend their local interests at these talks? How can they do so specifically? What does the Administering Authority think about this and what do the Micronesians themselves think about this?

Mr. SHERMAN (United States of America): Let me again repeat what I have said in the past. It has not been our policy to foster any kind of economic dependence by the entities of the Trust Territory upon the United States. All of our administration has been directed towards fostering economic development and - although self-sufficiency may be a far-off goal - we have sought to foster such economic development to the point where the entities can become increasingly independent.

We have been frankly disappointed at the rate of economic development in parts of the Trust Territory and I had hoped for better results. None the less, we believe that economic conditions have greatly improved over the 37 years of the trusteeship, particularly when one considers how little remained following the ravages of the Second World War.

United States appropriations and programmes for the Trust Territory have rapidly increased in the past two decades and currently stand at around \$US 900 per capita yearly. We will continue to assist Micronesia in the post-termination period to promote its economic development and increased self-sufficiency.

I think that it would require very little review of the negotiations that have taken place between Mr. Zeder as Special Representative for negotiations with the Trust Territory to become quite aware of the fact that in no way are the individual Governments themselves constrained by any economic dependence on the United States to accept dicta by the United States negotiator. These have been very thorough and equal negotiations. The Trust Territories are quite conscious of their individual responsibilities and sovereignty, of the fact that they are representative of the peoples in the areas of which they are the elected governments, and they have dealt in all equality in the course of these negotiations. No threats regarding suspension of economic aid or anything of the sort have been made in the course of the negotiations.

We continue and will continue in the post-trusteeship period to render appropriate economic assistance to the Territories and to continue to encourage healthy development towards economic maturity.

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(Mr. Sherman, United States)

It might be useful to ask the representatives of the Territories who are here with us today what their view of this particular issue might be.

Mr. GUERRERO (Special Adviser): As regards economic development or attempts to be more independent economically, the Northern Marianas already have a tax system and we are improving that system to yield greater revenues. In the matter of infrastructure, we did require the assistance of the Administering Authority in previous years and even now, we require their assistance. But the Northern Marianas acknowledge that they want to be self-sufficient and to this end we are working with various federal agencies that are helping us encourage economic development in the Northern Marianas by bringing in foreign investors both from the ASEAN countries and from the United States.

Thus we are working very hard to enhance the economic self-sufficiency of the Northern Marianas, and we acknowledge that in the past the United States Government has provided substantial amounts of funding for the improvement of infrastructure. It is the policy of our Government to do what we can do but, at the same time, if we cannot do things ourselves, we like to obtain the assistance of the United States - probably not through financial aid, but through other means, in order to work towards our goal.

Mr. AMARAICH (Special Representative): To be brief, let me just say that I think there is general agreement that people would have wished that more had been done in the Islands. Even the United States Government, I think, regrets that things were slow and perhaps that decisions were slow as well.

But my Government looks at it this way: Are we going to just sit and complain and complain about all of this, and blame someone else? Or are we going to take it upon ourselves to see what we can do ourselves? That is the attitude of my Government. My Government is very grateful to the United States Government for the many things it has placed in the Territory in terms of infrastructure amounting to millions and millions of dollars. We have concluded that for us economic development can work only if we ourselves try to achieve it. Granted, we are going to need assistance from outside, but we have made a decision and, as we see it now, our conclusion is that the Compact of Free Association will give us the means to start that effort.

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Mr. UHERBELAU (Adviser): Ambassador Sherman and my two colleagues have already expressed what I wanted to say. I would simply like to assure the Council that we Micronesians have never laid claim to the right to economic development.

Mr. SHERMAN (United States of America): I would just like to add in general terms that it requires only a very casual look at the history of the world since the end of the Second World War to realize quite clearly, that the United States has worked on the premise and on the philosophy that economic assistance to nations in disarray, nations which have suffered as a result of the devastation of war or the vagaries of the world economy, helps us all prosper. The Marshall Plan in Europe, the reconstruction that took place in the post-war period, even among former adversaries such as Germany and Japan, received substantial inputs from the United States, both bilaterally and through institutions such as the United Nations. We have given vast sums in financial contributions, and in the end this has been for the general good of all peoples. Our motives in this have been altruistic - I do not think there is any real quarrel with that - and I think the results have been manifest to the world.

Mr. GRIGUTIS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Looking at part III of the report, on international and regional relations, we find on pages 20 to 22 material concerning two entities only - Palau and the Marshall Islands. What is the reason for the omission of information about the other entities? Is there a valid explanation why the Administering Authority has supplied information on Palau and the Marshall Islands but not on the other entities?

Mr. SHERMAN (United States of America): Basically, the information from which this report was compiled was produced by the entities themselves, and such information was not received from those entities that are omitted from the report, or at least not in time for publication of this document. We freely admit that our annual report is not a complete document because it has to be put together to meet printers' deadlines and things of that nature.

I am quite sure that Mr. Amaraich can respond to the Soviet Union's questions concerning the foreign relations of his Government.

Mr. AMARAICH (Special Representative): We regret the omission, whatever the cause. I would like to indicate for the record that we have been actively pursuing international relations and have participated in certain organizations. As the Council may recall, in previous statements we reported that the Government

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(Mr. Amaraich, Special Representative)

of the Federated States of Micronesia was the first of the four Trust Territory Governments to become a member of the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation, of which we are a full member at this time. We are an observer member of the South Pacific Forum. It is because of our status that we are only an observer member. This means that if the Compact of Free Association is approved and the trusteeship terminated we shall become a full member of the South Pacific Forum. We are also participating as a full member in the Forum Fisheries Agency, which is the organization that deals with fisheries in the Pacific area.

As has been reported to the Council, we were among the Governments that became full members of the South Pacific Commission at its last meeting in Saipan. We have participated in the meetings of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP); we are benefiting from the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). So there has been some active participation.

We participated in the work on the London Convention as an observer and in that on the Law of the Sea Convention, and we are a member of the Pacific Islands Development Programme. There may be others, but I cannot remember off hand. So there are activities in those areas.

I have mentioned the specific problem that we have, but it is one that time will solve. Our observer membership in the South Pacific Forum is the result of our current status as a Trust Territory. Were it not for that, we should be participating actively.

There is one other area that I might mention, but this is a matter for my Government and the Trust Territory Government. I refer to participation in ESCAP. I see now that the Trust Territory Government is an associate member and the other four Governments have to attend as part of the Trust Territory associate membership. It is getting to the point where it must be difficult for the United States Government to represent four different views at ESCAP. I hope that we shall be able to work it out so that we can participate directly and not have to wait until the trusteeship is terminated, because that is one of the reasons why we cannot participate directly.

Mr. GRIGUTIS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In the report of the Administering Authority a detailed account is given of training given by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). A considerable number of instructors and a significant amount of training and equipment have been made available to the authorities in the Trust Territories. Many month-long seminars have been held on technical devices, the use of tear gas and so on.

Have any other agencies or institutions of the Federal Government been involved in training in such spheres as agriculture, fishing, livestock, food preservation and medicine?

Mr. SHERMAN (United States of America): Of course, the FBI's role is straight training in law enforcement. Training has been given by representatives of other United States agencies. For instance, the United States Navy has conducted training on shipboard in fire-fighting techniques; the Department of Agriculture has maintained programmes in the Marshall Islands; the United States Coast Guard, which is part of our Department of Transportation, has been engaged in giving training in coastal-security techniques.

I shall ask Mrs. McCoy to respond to the question more fully, because she is much more familiar with the subject than I am.

Mrs. MCCOY (Special Representative): There is quite a long list of training programmes conducted by various agencies in Micronesia. There has been training in alcohol-related programmes, in basic micro computer theory, in cattle management, in clinical nutrition, in delinquency prevention and control, in dental work, in environmental protection, in family planning, in fish-poisoning detection and treatment, in adult education, in health implications of international travel, in hospital administration; there have been food services co-ordinators workshops, instructional materials workshops - things of that kind. There has been training in fire-fighting at airports. Since we now have new, modern airports and are serviced by good air transportation, such training has become very important. There is training in law enforcement for juvenile justice, all kinds of medical and nursing training, various on-the-job training in subjects such as computer management, finance management, population communication. We have some 75 programmes of training in Micronesia. So there are indeed agencies and institutions besides the FBI involved in training there.

Mr. GRIGUTIS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): On page 19 of the Administering Authority's report, there is a picture of what appears to be a very happy meeting between Admiral Bruce DeMars and a representative of the local authorities. How does the Administering Authority account for the inclusion of this picture in its report? What was the purpose of the visit by Admiral DeMars and what were the results of the visit?

Mrs. McCOY (Special Representative): We decided to include some pictures in our report because we had had so much criticism to the effect that our reports were boring. We thought we could perhaps liven up the reports with a picture or two.

As for the purpose of the visit, I am afraid that question would have to be put to Admiral DeMars. I can, however, say this: Admiral DeMars is now stationed in Washington but when he was stationed in Guam, the entire Trust Territory was within his jurisdiction. He and I made frequent trips throughout the Territory, and this practice has been continued by Commodore Hagen, who has replaced Admiral DeMars. We have a good working relationship with all the Governments in Micronesia and we want to keep it that way. Indeed, these visits are happy occasions.

I repeat that the question about the purpose of the particular visit that is the object of the picture in the report would have to be put to Admiral DeMars. But I do travel a great deal with the Navy. As a rule, the purpose is to see if we can be helpful in any way.

Mr. GRIGUTIS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Have the inalienable rights of the indigenous inhabitants been respected and the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement, the United Nations Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples complied with when the United States uses the Trust Territory as a nuclear test range and when United States military authorities in the Trust Territory take reprisals against peaceful demonstrators on Kwajalein Atoll demanding freedom and independence and adequate compensation for United States military activities on their homeland? Why should the people of Micronesia and their environment suffer in order to serve the purposes of the United States arms race?

Mr. SHERMAN (United States of America): With respect to nuclear testing in the Trust Territory, let us recall, first, that we are talking about a period almost three decades ago. Moreover, our belief is that the conduct of nuclear tests in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands was in no way inconsistent with the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement. We consider that the conduct of such tests by the United States in the Trust Territory was consistent with Article 84 of the United Nations Charter and with the Trusteeship Agreement. These authorities give the United States full powers of administration, legislation and jurisdiction and impose on us

"the duty ... to ensure that the Trust Territory shall play its part in the maintenance of international peace and security".

The Trusteeship Council has never charged the United States with violating the Trusteeship Agreement in this regard. In fact, a 1954 Trusteeship Council resolution implicitly accepts the position of the United States

"if the Administering Authority considers it necessary in the interests of world peace and security to conduct further nuclear experiments in the Territory and it takes such precautions as will ensure that no inhabitants of the Territory are again endangered, including those precautionary measures requested by the petitioners".

Prior to 1954, the United States had conducted nuclear tests in the Trust Territory, in 1948, 1951 and 1952, without objection by any United Nations body. Moreover, the United States had conducted nuclear tests in the area prior to its designation as a trusteeship, and it seems clear that the United Nations understood at that time that additional tests would be conducted in the islands.

The United States conducted its first atomic test in the Marshall Islands in 1946, and subsequently negotiated the Trusteeship Agreement with the Security Council. On 2 April 1947 - 37 years ago - the Security Council unanimously approved the terms of the Agreement and the arrangement under which the Territory was designated a strategic area. During Trusteeship Council consideration of the Territory in the 1950s, the question before the Council was not misuse of the strategic area but, rather, the effectiveness of the precautions taken during the testing. The United States, as Administering Authority, had taken every precaution considered necessary in the light of specific knowledge at that time. The United States acted in good faith in the discharge of its obligations and authority.

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(Mr. Sherman, United States)

The 1946 test was observed by members of the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission. Following the test of a weapon in 1954, the Trusteeship Council recommended that, if other tests were necessary, precautions be taken to ensure that the inhabitants were not endangered. Two years later the Council reaffirmed its position, taking note of the declaration by the United States that further tests were necessary for the maintenance of international peace and security. In 1958 the Trusteeship Council rejected an Indian proposal which would have requested the United States not to conduct such tests in or in the proximity of the Trust Territory.

Since 1958 the United States has conducted no nuclear test programme in the Trust Territory and it has undertaken treaty obligations which would prevent the reinstitution of a programme there or elsewhere.

Let me turn to another point referred to in my Soviet colleague's question, that regarding the 1982 demonstration at the Kwajalein missile range. A number of landowners of Kwajalein atoll, organized as the Kwajalein Atoll Corporation, undertook an unlawful but generally peaceful "sit-in" demonstration at the range in 1982, primarily to manifest their unhappiness with certain policies of their own Government, that of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Their complaints concerned, among other things, their Government's failure to execute a financial agreement with the Kwajalein Atoll Corporation for fiscal year 1982, whereas there had been such agreements in the two preceding fiscal years, and their Government's signature of an agreement subsidiary to the Compact of Free Association which would have allowed continued United States use of the range for up to 50 years. They also reportedly considered the amount of compensation for that use to be too low and objected to the manner in which the compensation was set forth and characterized. The landowners also expressed their dissatisfaction with living conditions on Ebeye and their treatment on Kwajalein.

As the demonstration continued, the landowners and their supporters complained about lack of telephone access to their American legal counsel and about a shut-off of water for sanitary facilities at their encampments. Various legal actions were filed both by the landowners and by their Government. The United States also became peripherally involved in some of this litigation, but it was principally litigation between the landowners and the Marshallese Government.

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(Mr. Sherman, United States)

The four-month-long demonstration was finally resolved through negotiations in Washington between the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Kwajalein Atoll Corporation, resulting in a new agreement between them in 1982, and simultaneous negotiations between the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the United States, resulting in a new Kwajalein Interim Use Agreement, the fourth in a series of such agreements. The latter agreement extends until the Compact of Free Association comes into effect or until 30 September 1985, whichever is the sooner. At the same time, negotiators for the Marshall Islands and the United States initialled changes to the subsidiary agreement to the Compact of Free Association, which include a reduction of its term from 50 years to 30 years and a corresponding reduction of United States compensation for use of the range during that period.

Since 1982 relations between the Kwajalein missile range, the Marshall Islands Government and the people of Kwajalein have markedly improved. This process has been greatly assisted through the establishment of a community relations council, which meets monthly as a forum for resolving questions arising under the Interim Use Agreement.

The new Interim Use Agreement provides additional funding for the economic development of Ebeye Island, where most of the landowners live, in fiscal years 1983 through 1985 and includes a provision that, for the first time, the landowners themselves will contribute to the improvement of living conditions on Ebeye from the compensation they receive, through their Government, from the United States. To implement these developmental activities, landowners have organized themselves into the Kwajalein Atoll Development Authority (KADA). In turn, KADA has played an important role, along with the Administering Authority, in the selection and funding of economic development projects, primarily an electric-power and desalination plant, during the fiscal year 1984 cycle. The Interim Use Agreement also increases from two to three the number of six-week periods each year when landowners and others may visit and use their islands in Kwajalein Atoll and has other provisions beneficial to the landowners.

For its part, the United States is satisfied with these arrangements and is pleased that agreements were finally reached in this essentially intra-Marshallese dispute. The landowner encampments on Kwajalein Island and other islands of the atoll leased by the United States were promptly and peaceably dismantled soon after signature of the agreements.

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Mr. GRIGUTIS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): On pages 46 and 47 of the report we read about the action programme carried out by a United States agency. Who invited the teams to go to Micronesia? Did they go of their own accord or was their assistance requested by the Micronesians?

Mrs. MCCOY (Special Representative): The Civic Action Teams (CAT) are among the agencies most in demand in Micronesia. They have been highly successful. They have carried out a great deal of civic improvement. They are there at the request of the individual Governments of Micronesia, and there are discussions with the Governments individually as to what projects they should take on or can help with. They do a great deal in training the people of the individual Governments. They are highly respected and have been most helpful. I think probably the answer would come best from the individual Micronesian Governments which have such teams in their areas.

Mr. GRIGUTIS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to ask a supplementary question. Also on page 47 we read that in 1976 the High Commissioner of the United States Administration entered into an agreement with the Department of the Navy concerning the activity of United States naval forces in the Trust Territory. I would request more detailed information for the Council concerning what specifically was done by the United States Marines during the 10 years in the Trust Territory. Could we have a detailed account of the principal projects among the 54 which we understand were carried out by the Marines during that time?

Mr. SHERMAN (United States of America): There may be some confusion in the mind of my Soviet colleague. The agreement referred to was made for the importation of seabees, as we call them. These are units of the United States Navy which are primarily civil engineering teams. They are constructors. They build roads and houses and they instruct and train. They are very active, and we use them frequently in areas where they are located to assist the local governments to carry out projects for which the latter would not have had an opportunity to train.

There have never been any United States Marines in the Trust Territory. The Marine Corps has quite a different role. Instruction battalions are exactly what the High Commissioner has referred to them as - civil action teams; they are there to assist the local governments in various ways.

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(Mr. Sherman, United States)

Now the Federated States of Micronesia has such a team operating and I am sure that Mr. Amaraich could tell the Council how his Government feels about their activities.

Mr. AMARAICH (Special Representative): I really do not have much to add except to confirm that the presence of these civil action teams in the four states was the result of requests from those Governments. Each state government decides whether it wants to utilize a civil action team; requests are made to the United States Government and the United States Government makes those teams available. They are in community projects - water, dispensaries, water catchment - small projects that are not covered in the regular capital improvement projects because they are too small for large companies but too big for a local community. The teams bring in their own equipment and expertise to construct roads, bridges and small community projects.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.