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Fifty-third Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND NINTH MEETING

Held at United Nations Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 16 May 1986, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. RAPIN (France)

- Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1985: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued)
- The future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/1886)
- Dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1985: TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1888) (continued)

THE FUTURE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1886)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I understand that the Permanent Representative of the United States wishes to make a statement.

Mr. WALTERS (United States of America) (interpretation from French): On behalf of my delegation, I congratulate you, Sir, on your assumption of the Presidency and wish you good fortune and success in the performance of your functions.

(continued in English)

I am pleased to address the Council on agenda item 14, "The future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands".

My delegation listened attentively to the eloquent statements delivered to the Trusteeship Council on 12 May by the representatives of the Micronesian Governments: President Nakayama of the Federated States of Micronesia, President Salii of Palau, Lieutenant-Governor Tenorio of the Northern Marianas and Chief Secretary DeBrum of the Marshall Islands. The four statements discussed a number of subjects, including the history of negotiations and accomplishments in the Territory. They contained praise for the achievements under the trusteeship and measured criticism of its failings. My delegation was greatly impressed by those statements, which reflect favourably upon the wisdom of the Micronesians in selecting their leaders and the sophistication of the political institutions which they represent.

Above all else in their statements one message came through loud and clear: terminate the trusteeship and do it without delay. Let me quote their words.

(Mr. Walters, United States)

President Nakayama:

"I am here today to ask that the Council, which has played such a vital role in our history, now carry out its ultimate responsibility: to recognize that the trusteeship has served its purpose.

...

"as of this moment no further basis exists for the maintenance of trusteeship status for the Federated States of Micronesia.

...

"The Federated States of Micronesia exists today as evidence of the wisdom of those who originally conceived the trusteeship. It stands also as evidence that the trusteeship has served its purpose, and that fact must be recognized without further delay." (T/PV.1602, pp. 3-5, 6, 11)

(Mr. Walters, United States)

President Salii:

"Palau has completed its part in the process of terminating the trusteeship and becoming self-governing in free association with the United States ... I urge that the Compact be promptly approved by the Administering Authority, without delay ... and by this Council and the United Nations at large ... Just as we respect [our critics'] wishes, we ask them and we ask the Council to respect our wishes, approve this Compact, terminate the trusteeship and bring these long years of negotiation to an end ... When the trusteeship ends, as I hope it very shortly will end, it will not be because it failed, but because it succeeded ... On many occasions I thought I would never see this day - and there were a few times when I thought no one ever would. Now the day has come and I say to the Council: thank you and farewell." (T/PV.1602, pp. 17 and 18)

Lieutenant-Governor Tenorio:

"... without reservation, qualification or condition, we ask the Trusteeship Council to terminate the trusteeship with respect to the Northern Mariana Islands and allow us to proceed with the full implementation of our Commonwealth in political union with the United States of America."

(T/PV.1602, p. 28)

Chief Secretary DeBrum:

"The trusteeship has served the purpose for which it was established, and the Marshall Islands now stands ready for the Council to terminate the relationship defined in the Trusteeship Agreement ... We appeal to each Member's nation to support the Marshall Islands ... as it is freed from the restriction of a territorial relationship and becomes a nation that is self-governing and responsible for its own internal and foreign affairs ... So that the Marshall Islands ... can take its rightful ... place as a nation, we ask the Council to take action to terminate the trusteeship." (T/PV.1602, p. 43-45)

(Mr. Walters, United States)

Those are the words of the elected representatives of the Micronesian people.

The trusteeship has been in existence for almost four decades. The Micronesian trusteeship is the only one of the 11 trusts placed under the authority of the Council still with us. Understandably, the Micronesians have felt for some time that they are ready to end this tutelage. It has served them well, but it is no longer necessary for them. The principal goal of the Trusteeship System was, according to Article 76 of the Charter,

"to promote ... progressive development towards self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of each Territory."

The peoples of Micronesia have achieved self-government. That is the meaning of the constitutional governments they have created. That is the meaning of the status arrangements which they have negotiated with the United States: commonwealth for the Northern Marianas; free association for the Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Let me say something about those choices of status. International practice and United Nations resolutions have recognized three basic forms as acceptable outcomes of the process of self-determination: independence, free association with an existing State, or integration into an existing State. Examples of free association are Niue and the Cook Islands, which have chosen free association with New Zealand. An example of integration is the Cocos Islands, which has chosen to become an integral part of Australia. Both choices were ratified by the United Nations, without dissent.

The peoples of Micronesia have chosen similar paths. As important as their choices has been the process by which they have arrived at their choices. Plebiscites observed by the Trusteeship Council offered the Micronesian peoples the

(Mr. Walters, United States)

choice of the full range of status options, including independence. The plebiscites were judged free and fair acts of self-determination by the Trusteeship Council, without any attempt by the Administering Authority to dictate or influence the outcome. In free, fair elections the results are never unanimous. As the Micronesian leaders have pointed out in their statements, there are those within Micronesia and without who might have preferred a different outcome - either a closer relationship with the United States or complete independence. While we respect those voices, we have an obligation to heed more closely the voice of the majority - in this case the overwhelming majority - and the elected leaders of that majority. Respect for the principle of self-determination means there is no single path to be imposed from the outside; rather, it means we must honour the free choice of the peoples concerned. That is what self-determination is all about.

The Trusteeship Council has the opportunity to take a historic step, not only from the perspective of Micronesia but from the perspective of the United Nations as well. The Trusteeship System and this Council have served the peoples of the Trust Territories well: they have served the Administering Authorities well by reminding them politely but firmly of their responsibilities; and they have served the world community well by bringing self-determination and its benefits to peoples that had been denied them for so long. The System and the Trusteeship Council have achieved their purposes, and achieved them thoroughly. It is my hope that this session of the Trusteeship Council will write the last chapter in that record of achievement.

On behalf of the United States, as the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, I request that the Trusteeship Council recognize that the time has come to terminate the trusteeship. The United States has fulfilled its obligations and responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Agreement to the peoples of Micronesia and to the

(Mr. Walters, United States)

United Nations. The peoples of Micronesia have made crystal clear their hope that the trusteeship will be terminated. It now remains for the members of this Council to respond to our request, and to their hope.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the Permanent Representative of the United States for the remarks he addressed to me.

The Council will now resume its consideration of the annual report of the Administering Authority. Any representatives who wish to do so may continue to put questions on conditions in the Trust Territory.

(The President)

If no delegation wishes to speak at this stage, I propose that we turn to agenda item 9, which relates to the dissemination of information and which we are to consider this morning. The representative of the Department of Public Information (DPI), whom I asked to attend, is not yet here, so we still have a few minutes, if any delegation wishes to refer to the report of the Administering Authority. There will also be an opportunity to do so after consideration of agenda item 9, of course.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It is my understanding that we have not yet finished with questions to the representative of the Administering Authority on the situation in the Trust Territory. Accordingly we should like to continue that process, which has been interrupted by the statement of the Permanent Representative of the United States although the Trusteeship Council is not even halfway through clarifying the situation which has now been created in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

We have already stated that the question of the future of the Trust Territory should be considered from the point of view of the observance by the Administering Authority of the provisions of the United Nations Charter, the Trusteeship Agreement and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. The United States is attempting to define that future by bypassing and violating those fundamental documents and to face the United Nations with the fait accompli of the annexation of Micronesia.

We repeat once more that the so-called agreement between the United States and the Micronesians was worked out behind the back of the United Nations in conditions in which the United Nations was kept completely in the dark by the United States and prevented from defending the interests of the peoples of that Territory.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

We shall have another opportunity to make the appropriate full review of the situation prevailing in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in the light of all factors, including those which have been presented, are being presented and will be presented during this session of the Trusteeship Council.

I should now like to refer to the business for today's meeting, namely, questions to the Administering Authority. Our first question concerns the situation in Palau and the so-called referendum that took place there in February this year.

We should like clarification and a clear definition of the programme of political education prior to the referendum in Palau.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): Before we turn to the question just posed by the representative of the USSR, I wish to make some brief comments on his initial remarks, which were quite critical, either directly or by implication, of the fact that Ambassador Walters made a statement before this Council on agenda item 14.

As I recall, on 2 May - although I would not vouch for the date - members of the Council held informal consultations concerning the provisional agenda, and Ambassador Kutovoy was present. It was agreed then that we would consider agenda items 4 and 14 together. Now, in the provisional timetable, agenda items 4 and 14 are consistently listed together. Therefore Ambassador Walters's statement on agenda item 14 was not an interruption at all; it was consistent with the provisional timetable for our work. It was therefore totally appropriate for him to come before the Council and speak about the future of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

(Miss Byrne, United States)

Secondly, at the conclusion of those informal consultations I approached Ambassador Kutovoy and informed him what we were considering doing under agenda item 14. I cannot, therefore, accept the charge that the United States kept the USSR in the dark.

As a third and last comment, earlier in the session, on opening day when we were discussing adoption of the agenda, the USSR asked for clarification of what the United States intended by requesting the addition of agenda item 14. As I indicated, I had already informed Ambassador Kutovoy informally. At that time, I asked that the USSR delegation await the presentation of the statement of the United States delegation. I wish to point out that Ambassador Walters has just made a crystal-clear clarification of our intentions with respect to item 14.

Now, turning to the question posed by the representative of the USSR concerning what he referred to as the so-called referendum and what I call "the referendum" on Palau, the report of the Visiting Mission contains a very precise description of the event, what preceded it, its goals and its outcome. I would therefore point out to the representative of the USSR that that document, the report of the Visiting Mission, is complete and comprehensive.

I believe it might be well if the Palauan delegation were asked for further comment on the question concerning the plebiscite.

Mr. NGIRAKED (Special Adviser): As relates to the broad question of political education, the mandate for a Political Education Committee, which consisted of five members, was explicitly set forth in Palau Public Law 2-14, which was submitted as part of the United Nations Observation Team that observed and supervised the plebiscite in question. I would like, if I may, in view of the report on this specific question, to ask the representative of the Soviet Union to narrow his question to specific terms so that I may be able to discuss specifically the type of political education that took place prior to the plebiscite.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I get the impression that, for the Administering Authority and its Special Representative and Adviser, there is a great deal of difficulty in formulating a clear statement of what the political education programme is. Here and now, we are being referred to the report of the Visiting Mission and to other documents. It would be simpler, really, to describe that programme.

By and large, we understand the difficulties the delegation of the Administering Authority is having with regard to this question. I would therefore like to ask a supplementary question. Reference has just been made to Public Law 2-14 establishing a Committee to carry out a political education programme. If I recall correctly, that Law was approved on 29 January of this year. In that connection, when, after the approval of Public Law 2-14, was the Committee established?

Mr. NGIRAKED (Special Adviser): The five-member Political Education Committee was established within the first five days after Public Law 2-14 was approved by the National Congress and signed into force by the President. I know that, because I was appointed to be one of the five members of that Political Education Committee.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I have another question: by whom and when was the drafting of the so-called clarification note on this plebiscite done? When was that drafted? Who did it, and when? Was it done by that Committee, was it done by the President, was it done by the Administering Authority?

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): Mr. President, earlier I asked you to get clarification from the representative of Palau because, of course, this question is entirely the concern of Palau. But I am now reminded that in fact the representative of the Soviet Union said that the United States and its Special Advisers from Palau were having difficulty in answering his question.

I wish to state that the United States does not have difficulty in answering his question. It is simply that the political education programme was a Palauan programme. It was not designed by the United States; it was not our plebiscite. All the arrangements, all the political education, all the preparations, all the consultations, discussions and radio and television programmes concerning the plebiscite were carried out by the Palauans.

I did not answer that question because it was not our programme. Again I state that it was not our campaign or our programme. It was strictly a Palauan enterprise.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I have another question in the same sphere. We should like some clarification as to the criterion for establishing the time period for the political education campaign. On the basis of what criterion did they set the period during which the political education campaign would be conducted?

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): I suggest that the question be addressed to the delegation of Palau because, as I said before, all arrangements for the campaign and the plebiscite were made by the Government of Palau.

Mr. NGIRAKED (Special Adviser): The period allowed for political education to take place prior to the plebiscite was set in Palau Public Law 2-14, and the length of political education was simply designed to fit into the amount of time that existed between the approval of the law and the time set by the law for the plebiscite. We had to operate within that time period as established by the Olbiil Era Kelulau, our national Congress.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Are we, then, to understand that a decision was taken by the Palauan authorities to the effect that it would be enough to set aside two weeks to acquaint the Palauan population with the contents of the Compact and that that was considered enough time to inform the population about the changes that were made in the text of the so-called Compact, which was itself not approved at the preceding plebiscite on Palau?

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): I have the very, very strong impression that we have been asked this same question by the representative of the Soviet Union over and over this week. We have given strong answers, as the verbatim record will show, to indicate that the Palauans had been through two other plebiscites on essentially the same question. They had been involved in negotiations on the question for years. They knew the issues, and the time allotted - as I do believe the report of the Visiting Mission also points out - was quite enough in the special circumstances. Further, the campaign of education, as I understand it, began on 10 January, the date the Compact was signed. The plebiscite took place on 21 February, so there was nearly six weeks of education and discussion.

I also must say again, as I did yesterday, that the representative of the Soviet Union would not need to ask these same questions over and over if the Soviet Union had ever fully participated in the work of this Council and if it had in its participation in the Council's work accepted the invitation to go to Palau to observe the plebiscite - both the preparations for it and its conduct.

Mr. MORTIMER (United Kingdom): Ambassador Byrne's last remarks prompt me to ask where this line of questioning is getting us at this stage. I do not wish for one moment to dispute the validity of my Soviet colleague's questions, or indeed his right to ask them, but we are getting into the area now of the report of the Visiting Mission that observed the plebiscite in February. We have had suggestions that delegations should refer themselves to it. We have even had quotations from it.

I am concerned with the efficient use of our time. It is of course clear from our agenda that under item 7 we shall have an opportunity fully to discuss the whole question of the Palau plebiscite. In order to avoid the risk of duplication of our work, I was wondering whether this line of questioning might not perhaps be postponed until we reach that agenda item.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I shall start with the statement just made by the representative of the United Kingdom. As far as I understand it, the so-called plebiscite on Palau was not carried out by a Visiting Mission of the Trusteeship Council, which, as I see it, should not bear responsibility for that. The Mission was sent there for another purpose, but that is a matter for the conscience of our English colleague to take responsibility for what took place there during the plebiscite. I asked the question as to what took place prior to the plebiscite, when the representative of the United Kingdom was not in Palau.

I am not even going to talk about the right of a delegation to raise questions about the situation in the Trust Territory. So much then for the remark made by the representative of the United Kingdom.

With regard to the statement of the representative of the Administering Authority, I must say that the questions asked by the Soviet delegation are not

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

repetitious. They have their purpose. We wish to clarify, none the less, what took place on the Territory, and as can be seen from the answers we have been receiving, there is no clear picture.

On the one hand, we are told that the political education campaign was begun with the introduction of Public Law 2-14. I especially asked the question as to when it was adopted, when the Committee was established and when it began its activities. Public Law 2-14 was approved on 29 January. Then it was said that the Committee began operating some time within five days after the approval of Public Law 2-14. Now, simple arithmetic tells us that if we add 5 to 29 that brings us to approximately the beginning of the next month, that is, February. The plebiscite took place on 19 February. Let us take 1 February as the starting date. The campaign started on 1 February. The time between 1 and 19 February is hardly six weeks. But that is all well and good. It is clear to the Soviet delegation that the holding of the plebiscite took place in haste. That can be explained clearly by the special interests of the United States, although here we have been told that the United States was really not involved with that plebiscite at all, and although the United States financed the holding of that plebiscite.

I sense some impatience on the part of my colleague from the United Kingdom. He really wants to say something, so I shall give him the chance to do so and then continue with my questions.

Mr. MORTIMER (United Kingdom): I am not in the least bit impatient. I am sorry, I thought that Mr. Berezovsky had actually finished his question and I wished to speak simply to make a remark and not in any way as a point of order. But I could not forbear to comment on what he said earlier.

(Mr. Mortimer, United Kingdom)

With the very greatest respect to my colleague of the Soviet Union, I am not for one moment suggesting that the Visiting Mission in any way organized the plebiscite, nor that we should be responsible for it, and I made it perfectly clear to him that I was not questioning the validity of his questions or his right to put them.

But I think we are all concerned, as we should be concerned, with the efficient use of our time, and we do have a separate agenda item under which to discuss the whole question of the Visiting Mission. I know that the agenda item relates to the report of the Visiting Mission, but it seems to me that that is a perfectly valid opportunity to discuss it, and what I am concerned about is that we do not have exactly the same questions repeated under that agenda item that have been put now. That is really all I want to assure myself of, and perhaps the representative of the Soviet Union can assure me that he will not be asking the same questions when we come to that agenda item.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am prepared to assure the representative of the United Kingdom that when we get to the actions taken by the Visiting Mission to Palau during the plebiscite, he will have to answer many questions which we are going to ask of him. I assure the Council that the questions we have addressed to the Administering Authority will not be repeated. There is too much to ask the delegations that were part of that Visiting Mission of the Trusteeship Council to Palau.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

Let me come to another question. Can the representative of the Administering Authority tell us what is the general level of unemployment in the Trust Territory this year? The usual answer is that there are data on the matter in the Administering Authority's report, but this year's report has been put together in a very complicated way. It was received very late, and it does not cover the present year.

If all the data are not available, we should not object to having only part of them now. In any case, we shall listen with great attention to what the representative of the United States has to say.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): I should like to respond first to the representative of the Soviet Union's comments on the Palau plebiscite and the arithmetic. The plebiscite took place on 21 February, not 19 February, so his arithmetic is off by two days to begin with. It is technically true that from the date of the formal establishment of the Committee - 29 January - to the plebiscite on 21 February, there were 24 days inclusive. However, as I indicated in my earlier response, the public education, including printing and dissemination of materials, began on 10 January - that is, before the formal establishment of the Committee.

Secondly, the representative of the Soviet Union said that the United States had claimed that it was not involved even though it had financed the plebiscite. It is true that the United States financed the plebiscite. It is also true that it was not involved in the plebiscite. As I said earlier this week, the United States contributed the money to enable the Palauans to carry out the plebiscite, but, as I have stated several times, the funds were turned over in a lump sum to the Government of Palau, which then used them to conduct the plebiscite in the way it wished.

(Miss Byrne, United States)

Lastly, I must once again reject the suggestion that the plebiscite and the public education campaign were conducted in haste - that was the interpretation of what the representative of the Soviet Union said. The Palauans have had 13 years of political education. They know the issues. They had been through the plebiscite process twice before, and the time allotted - three weeks and two days, according to the technical calculation, and six weeks as a practical matter, commencing on 10 January - was and is judged to be, and was, more than adequate in the circumstances that we have described on several occasions this week.

I suggest that the question on unemployment be put to the High Commissioner.

Mrs. McCOY (Special Representative): I acknowledge the comments of the representative of the Soviet Union about the annual report. I believe that in my opening statement I apologized for its being late this year. We were particularly anxious to obtain as much material as possible from each of the Governments and material that was as up-to-date as possible. As this may very well be the last annual report, we wanted it to be as comprehensive and accurate as possible. I apologize for any inconvenience that may have been caused to any delegation, and particularly to the Soviet delegation, as it feels that it has suffered some inconvenience.

With regard to unemployment, I call the attention of the Council to the statistical summary in our annual report, where it can be seen that in the Federated States of Micronesia unemployment has dropped by 7 percentage points since the previous year, while in the Northern Marianas it is down by over 3 percentage points. We believe that that trend is continuing and that as the private sector increases its activities and economic development proceeds the future will show a continued improvement. As we said yesterday, I think that more

(Mrs. McCoy, Special
Representative)

and more private investment will be seen throughout Micronesia as the Compact funding comes into effect.

Of course, many private investors - for perfectly good, sound economic reasons - have been holding back, waiting to be sure that we shall indeed terminate the trusteeship and that there will be three Governments and a Commonwealth of the United States firmly in place and with their own funding. That is imperative for joint ventures, for assistance and for the purpose of discussions, and it will certainly have a direct effect on unemployment.

The latest figures that we have are for 1985. That is about how long it takes for almost any kind of statistical report to be made.

With regard to those figures and overall unemployment it must be remembered that Micronesia is different, in that many people are employed in subsistence work. In other words, they are not in the labour market; they are not in a factory, in a job that can be counted, but they are very much employed in subsistence work.

(Mrs. McCoy, Special Representative)

Therefore, we end up with two types of labour force: those working in commercial ventures or on paying jobs and those in subsistence-type labour.

I shall refer to the overall unemployment figures on the subject for 1985: the Republic of the Marshalls, 25 per cent; the Federated States of Micronesia, 22 per cent; the Republic of Palau, 35 per cent; and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, 8.7 per cent. The figures in this table were supplied by a professional firm which carried out a labour survey in connection with the Job Training and Partnership Act - a grant from the United States to help train people to obtain jobs - and, fortunately, the Trust Territory was included in that Act. It has been very successful, but the figures were professionally obtained in order to understand how to help Micronesia with job training.

I repeat that to obtain figures for the whole of Micronesia is indeed a difficult task owing to distance and the outer islands, but those figures reflect quite accurately the present situation.

Mr. President, you may wish to call on any of my colleagues from Micronesia who may care to change, update or add to my comments.

Mr. TENORIO (Special Representative): I wish to comment on the figure of 8.7 per cent quoted by the High Commissioner. Approximately 30 per cent of the so-called unemployed are students who were counted as not having any jobs during the summer. It is not a representative figure and I venture to say that a more realistic estimate would be about 6 per cent.

Mr. DeBRUM (Special Representative): I should like to clarify the point stressed by the High Commissioner in respect of the 25 per cent figure given as the rate of unemployment for the Marshall Islands. We do not know whether the survey

(Mr. DeBrum, Special Representative)

took into account the fact that anyone born into our society has a rightful place to work, because it is an extended society where everyone has the right to work on one's plantation. The number given perhaps reflects the situation in the District Centre, and includes those who have graduated from school and those looking for available work. However, if those persons returned to their own homes they would not be classified as unemployed. I think that distinction is important. We do not have a registration system for those who do not actually have jobs; we have not started that as yet. The fact is we have a society in which everyone born into it has a rightful place to work. That is a consideration that I thought we should bring to the Trusteeship Council's attention.

Mr. NGIRAKED (Special Adviser): I wish to add something about Palau by way of clarification. Unemployment has a rather remote bearing on the state of livelihood in our society: we do work for a living, but we do not go to factories or offices; it does not have any significance on the particular measure of the state of livelihood of the people of Palau as it does in, say, a Western society such as New York, or the United States of America as a whole.

Mr. NAKAYAMA (Special Representative): I wish only to say that in my society when a person is unemployed it does not mean that he will starve to death; he will still be provided for by members of his family. For example, someone employed in the economic sector may be responsible for up to 30 persons if they come into a situation where they need to rely on the cash economy. But in the remote areas the majority of the people work on their own farms and fish for a living. If one is unemployed in the Federated States of Micronesia it is not the same as an unemployed person in New York. We do not let members of our society starve to death. If a person is not a member of an extended family, he is always offered food. That is our custom.

(Mr. Nakayama, Special Representative)

The unemployment question is therefore a relative one so far as we are concerned. The traditions and way of life in the Federated States of Micronesia must be taken into consideration.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): With reference to the statement by the representative of the United States about the plebiscite in Palau and her own personal calculations of the number of days used for the political education campaign, I must point out that when the delegation of the United States wishes to be accurate in its calculations it can be. Although I said the referendum took place on 19 February, it was actually held on 21 February; thus, two more days were added to the time used for the political education campaign.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

I continue to believe that the overall problem is not affected by this arithmetical exercise regarding a few days' difference in the date of the plebiscite.

Those were the comments I wished to make on the answers given by the United States delegation.

I come back now to this question of the unemployment rate in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. For many years now, the reports of the Administering Authority and of the Visiting Missions to the Trust Territory have indicated that the unemployment situation among the population is becoming increasingly serious and requires serious attention. I was surprised a moment ago to get the impression of - and I do not want to use any particular epithets here - a rather frivolous attitude towards this question of unemployment in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

A rather optimistic statement was made here that in the Trust Territory an unemployed person does not die of hunger. That is excellent; we should be very happy that the families support the unemployed persons. That does give us a picture of the way of life of people in the Trust Territory. It appears that a person who works manages to support 10 other persons, thereby lowering a classic unemployment figure, a figure that is not insignificant.

The Visiting Mission's report states that the unemployment rate on Ebeye has reached 82 per cent. I wonder whether these unemployed persons, making up 82 per cent, are supported by the salaries of those involved in the productive process there. But, taken by itself, that figure of 82 per cent not only puts us on our guard but even makes us ask these questions: What is going on? Why is there such a high unemployment rate on Ebeye? What measures are being taken by the Administering Authority to eliminate that unemployment? We know that it is

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

incumbent upon the Administering Authority to worry about the well-being of the people of the Trust Territory, so we are interested in having answers to those questions.

Mrs. McCOY (Special Representative): The figure of 82 per cent is rather an amazing one. Could the representative of the Soviet Union give me the specific reference that he is using? I assume the figure was taken from the Visiting Mission's report - indeed, I believe he did say that. I think I know what he is talking about, but before I answer the question I should like to be certain of where he obtained the figure he has used.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The figure is contained in paragraph 63 of the report, in document T/1878 of the Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1985.

Mrs. McCOY (Special Representative): I thank the representative of the Soviet Union for that clarification. I had understood him to say that the 82 per cent unemployment rate applied to the Trust Territory, and I can assure him that I would question that seriously. From the figures I and my colleagues from Micronesia have given, it is obvious that citing an 82 per cent unemployment rate for the Trust Territory would be a serious error.

I believe that the Soviet Union representative is referring to Ebeye, which of course has already mentioned in the hearings in the Council. Ebeye is part of the Kwajalein group. The representative of the Soviet Union is referring to a particular, and a small, spot in the Trust Territory.

I shall proceed if I do not stand corrected by the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I must say that either we are not listening to each other or there is something wrong with the interpretation. Mrs. McCoy can verify from the record of the meeting that I said that I was referring to Ebeye when I mentioned the 82 per cent unemployment rate. Mrs. McCoy, I am not attempting in any way to change the factual data in the Trusteeship Council documents.

I repeat that I was referring to the situation on Ebeye. Perhaps it is a small part of the Territory, or perhaps it is not - we are not going to be judges of what its size is.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

We are judging the situation that exists on the island of Ebeye, which is part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and on Ebeye the unemployment rate is 82 per cent. We are asking the following question about it: what measures are being taken by the Administering Authority to correct that absolutely abnormal situation and the colossal - the word is justified here - unemployment rate?

Mrs. McCOY (Special Representative): Now that this has been cleared up and the representative of the Soviet Union and I both agree that he is speaking of Ebeye, I shall be happy to proceed.

Ebeye, as most of those here who have attended other Trusteeship Council sessions know, is part of the Kwajalein Atoll. There are about 8,500 people on Ebeye and most of them are there because of this same extended-family tradition in Micronesia. Some of the people on Ebeye have got jobs on Kwajalein and they make good money. Because of Micronesian tradition, as has been clearly explained by my colleagues from Micronesia, the extended-family principle works, and works completely. I am not saying that it is a good principle, but it is the Micronesians' principle and I consider that that is their business. It is their culture and I see no reason for us to try to insist that our culture is better. Every man to his own culture is my feeling. If the people on Ebeye want to welcome their extended families, I think that that, too, is their business.

Let us go back to that population of 8,500 people on Ebeye. Half of them are children, which leaves us with a little over 4,000 adults. Of that number, about 600 work on Kwajalein and 200 on Ebeye in various jobs. If we take the 800 wage-earners and take away the children who cannot work, it works out, my staff tell me, at about 25 per cent unemployment. That is not bad.

(Mrs. McCoy, Special Representative)

Any kind of unemployment is not good. But there are different standards for the word "employment", and I think that my colleagues from Micronesia explained that very well. I am not altogether certain that their way of doing things is not better than our welfare system and possibly that of the USSR, where I am sure there is the same type of thing. Yes, any kind of unemployment is bad, but the situation is improving and I am sure that it will continue to improve.

Mr. MORTIMER (United Kingdom): I must say that I rather agree with both the High Commissioner and Minister Ngiraked who seem to me to have answered the Soviet Union's point exactly. We seem to be bedevilled by statistics here, and statistics are rather like bikinis in the sense that what they reveal is interesting, but what they conceal is even more so. It seems to me that what is concealed here is the criteria on which the surveys are carried out and on which unemployment figures are collected.

There is a sort of cultural presumption, I think, in industrialized societies that work - getting up in the morning, getting on the train, fighting one's way into the office and so on, spending the whole day behind a desk - should be financially rewarding as well as contributing to emotional and intellectual development. Clearly the cultural presumption in the Pacific is rather different and, as the High Commissioner and, indeed, Minister Ngiraked so eloquently put it, the people may well be a lot happier for that.

Of course, any form of unemployment is to be regretted, but I think it is important in considering the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands that we do not apply the same criteria for unemployment to Micronesia as we do to our own countries.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I do not want to get involved in the technical aspects of the problem of how the unemployment rate is calculated or what criteria should be applied.

Mrs. McCoy pointed out quite correctly that unemployment is in itself a negative phenomenon, a phenomenon that ought not to exist. However, that phenomenon does manifest itself in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and, as we can see from the documents before the Trusteeship Council, this question is of concern to the population - I emphasize "the population" of the Trust Territory. If we look at the reports of the Visiting Missions to the Trust Territory in 1985 we see that concern was expressed repeatedly by the people of the Territory.

It seems to me that here in the Trusteeship Council we should try not to sweep this problem under the carpet, to introduce into the problem extraneous factors and the question of the social structure or the social and cultural customs of the area.

Rather, we should consider what causes that unemployment and what measures the Administering Authority should take to fulfil its responsibilities under the Trusteeship Agreement.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

Throughout the meetings at this session we have heard statements in which representatives of the Administering Authority have shifted responsibility directly on to the shoulders of the Micronesians and the Micronesian local authorities. But, the Trusteeship Council is not dealing with the question of how the local administration is doing its job; it is concerned with the question of how the Administering Authority is fulfilling the obligations that stem from the Trusteeship Agreement and the United Nations Charter. The attempts to shift responsibility for the solution of these problems on to the shoulders of the Micronesians are, we believe, unjustifiable and based upon a wrong approach.

Since we have turned to social questions and the situation in the Trust Territory in this sphere, I should like to ask the following. In the statements by representatives of the Administering Authority at the beginning of our meeting, it was said that at the present time there is an influx into the Territory of Micronesians who have benefited from higher education. That was pointed out as an achievement, and if it is really the case we should certainly welcome it. We would like the answer to a specific question. How many Micronesian doctors - and I emphasize "Micronesian" - are to be found in the Territory? I know that this is not a new question; we asked it last year. However, in light of this latest statement that there is a great influx into the Trust Territory of Micronesians with higher educations, we should like to ask it again. And we ask it also because it is clear from the documents before us that the situation in the Trust Territory with regard to medicaments and medical services is very bad.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): Again, before we answer the question posed by the representative of the Soviet Union, I should like to refer to one of the comments he made in his rather long lead-in to his question. We are

(Miss Byrne, United States)

becoming quite used to having five-minute to 10-minute prefatory statements by the representative of the Soviet Union before he gets to his actual question, and sometimes the question is quite separate from the prefatory remarks.

I wish to comment on his criticism about the United States attempts to shift responsibility - I am quoting from the interpretation - to the Micronesians. It was not clear - or at least it was not clear to me whether he was talking about one specific thing or speaking generally. My colleagues believe it was a general criticism of a general shifting of responsibility to the Micronesians.

I would like to refer to my opening statement last Monday, in which I read out the goals of the Charter and briefly went into the accomplishments or near-accomplishments in each of the categories. Article 76 of the United Nations Charter states as the second goal of the Trusteeship System:

"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".

That second goal in Article 76 is precisely one of the things we are seeking and over the life of the trusteeship have sought to achieve. We really do want to promote the advancement of the islands in these fields, and we really have wanted to bring them to the point where they could assume total responsibility in these areas. We consider that they have come to that point, and indeed we are proud to be able to shift responsibility to the Micronesians for their own well-being.

I would suggest, Mr. President, that the High Commissioner be asked to respond to the question posed by the representative of the Soviet Union.

Mrs. McCOY (Special Representative): In answer to the question, as I recall it of the representative of the Soviet Union, there are two Micronesian doctors serving in Micronesia at this time. As we announced last year, the United States Government is funding a programme for the University of Hawaii Medical School to train medical officers. That will be in Ponape, and it will be a four-year course of medical training and for medical officers for the health services in Micronesia.

(Mrs. McCoy, Special Representative)

We shall bring them back to our own territory for their training. That school is supposed to open perhaps in the fall of this year, it is very much under way.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I think a tradition has been established here of commenting on the statements of each delegation. With regard to the statement of the representative of the United States, I must point out that even a 10-minute preface by the Soviet delegation is clearly not enough to explain what the question is and what the Soviet delegation has in mind in asking it. The Soviet delegation understands and knows full well the nature of the tasks of trusteeship. We know how they are set forth in the United Nations Charter, and we know how they are reflected in the Trusteeship Agreement, which was approved by the Security Council. Unfortunately the goals and the way in which the Administering Authority fulfils them are somewhat at variance.

It is precisely on the United Nations Charter, the Trusteeship Agreement and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples that the Soviet delegation bases itself in saying that the United States, whose obligation it is to develop the Territory and to show concern for the well-being of the population, has not achieved those goals, has not carried out the mandate given to the Administering Authority by the Security Council and, having failed to do so, is shifting responsibility for the results of its acts on to the shoulders of the Micronesians.

The Administering Authority has led the Territory into a situation in which there is a high rate of unemployment. Why did that happen? It happened because of the actions of the Administering Authority in the Territory, which now says that the Micronesians should deal with that problem now.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

Have the results of the nuclear tests on those islands been eliminated? The inhabitants have been moved from one atoll to another. The Territory has been used for a military objective, and its population has been moved, under horrible conditions, to another part of the Territory. Those are the results of actions by the Administering Authority, and the Administering Authority is now shifting responsibility for the results of those actions and the solution of those problems to the Micronesians themselves. That is what we are talking about.

My prefatory remarks this time took less than 10 minutes, so I shall venture to refer also to Mrs. McCoy's statement with regard to the number of Micronesian doctors in the Trust Territory.

We observe that in all these years the number of doctors has not increased. We note that scholarships are being provided for the training of future doctors from the Territory, but we should like some clarification from the High Commissioner, even if only briefly, as to what has been done by the Administering Authority over the past year to try to correct the very difficult situation as regards medical services in the Trust Territory.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Before I call on the High Commissioner, I should like to give the Council some information.

As members are aware, according to the tentative timetable that we adopted, at our next meeting we shall continue our questions to the Administering Authority. I therefore asked the representative of the Department of Public Information (DPI) to be present this morning in accordance with our programme to address the Council. It is now 12.35 p.m., and it is my intention to call on the High Commissioner so that she can answer the question put to her by the Soviet Union. I suggest that we then hear Mr. Masha, of the DPI, since he has been present since the start of our

(The President)

meeting. If any delegations wish to continue consideration of the report of the Administering Authority, I shall request Mr. Masha to come to another meeting, but I do think we should decide on this too hastily.

I call on the High Commissioner.

Mrs. McCOY (Special Representative): I shall make my answer very brief and would assure the representative of the Soviet Union that I shall be available at any forthcoming meeting to answer him more completely.

Without being in any way facetious, I would borrow the fine analogy of the representative of the United Kingdom about bikinis. One can, of course, look at the figures, as the representative of the Soviet Union does, as representing no improvement whatsoever, but the fact that we now have two Micronesian doctors really comes out as a 200 per cent gain.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): I feel that I must answer the comments of the representative of the USSR. I am extremely disappointed, and also quite astonished, to hear him declare that the Administering Authority has not achieved the goals and fulfilled the mandate given to it by the Security Council, and go on to talk about shifting the results of our failure on the shoulders of the Micronesians.

(Miss Byrne, United States)

I cannot accept the statement that the Administering Authority has not achieved its goals, the goals of the trusteeship. We have the statements of the High Commissioner on the situation in Micronesia. We have successive reports to the Council, most recently that of August 1985, that point to the readiness of the Micronesians for total self-government. And, most important, we have the unanimous request by the Micronesians for termination of the trusteeship. All these things indicate the readiness and ability of the Micronesians to assume these responsibilities. I must argue that we have fulfilled the responsibilities entrusted to us. I must also say that the delegation of the Soviet Union, in not accepting the facts put before it, must have another objective in mind.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I agree with you, Mr. President, that we should now hear the representative of the Department of Public Information, but the last statement of the representative of the United States forces me to make the following brief observations.

The representative of the United States does not agree with the opinion of the Soviet delegation to the effect that the Administering Authority is not carrying out its obligations under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement. We, for our part, do not agree with the opinion of the United States delegation that it is indeed carrying out its obligations. Moreover, our disagreement is not a simple statement but is based on the statements made by the Micronesians themselves.

If the representative of the United States so wishes, we can quote numerous statements by the Micronesians, but I do not want to use the valuable time of the Council by doing so now. The representative of the United States should know all

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

this better than I, because she is always saying that the Soviet delegation has not been to the Territory, whereas she has, I think. But that is not the point. I repeat that we base our statements on facts, and if we have to go so far as to quote them, there are certainly enough to quote.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM IN TRUST TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL RESOLUTION 36 (III) AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 754 (VIII)) (T/1889)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I call on Mr. Masha, the representative of the Department of Public Information.

We shall not have much time left after his statement, but I remind the Council that delegations will have an opportunity to speak on this item, at our meeting on Tuesday, 20 May in accordance with our tentative timetable.

Mr. MASHA (Department of Public Information (DPI)): It is an honour and a pleasure for me to introduce once again this year the report of the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System (T/1889). The report before the Council is in the form of a summary of the measures and activities undertaken by the Department of Public Information to maintain and enhance the awareness of the people of the Territory concerning the United Nations, the activities of the Council and the International Trusteeship System. The Department of Public Information has continued, as in the past, to distribute information material, such as publications, press releases, radio programmes, films and photos, both directly to the Territory and through its Information Centres, particularly the one in

(Mr. Masha)

Tokyo, Japan. Members will find a list of some of the publications we have sent in an annex to the document before it.

Last year we indicated that we were unable to report on the annual visit to the Territory by our Information Officer in Tokyo, which unfortunately had not taken place at the time of the Council's session.

As the Council will note in this year's report, the Information Officer from our Information Centre in Tokyo visited the area from 3 to 15 November 1985. The outcome of his talks with officials in the Territory is outlined in the report before the Council. In addition, positive feedback on DPI radio programmes sent to the Territory was registered by a radio officer of the Department who visited the Territory in January 1985.

I have confined my introductory remarks to what I consider to be the salient points of the report before the Council. May I again take this opportunity to stress the importance which the Department attaches to the Council's work, and assure the Council that we will continue to fulfil our role, as mandated by the General Assembly, of providing information to the people of the Territory on the activities of the United Nations and on the principles and objectives of the International Trusteeship System.

I wish, Mr. President, to assure you of the full co-operation of our Department in facilitating your very difficult task.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As I have said, members of the Council may choose whether to make their first comments now or to wait for the special meeting to deal with this matter on Tuesday, 20 May.

Mr. MORTIMER (United Kingdom): I see from paragraph 11 of the report that Mr. Masha introduced that the video cassette of the film "Being Young" was sent to the Trust Territory through the United Nations Information Centre in Tokyo. I do not know whether that video cassette has packed them in in Micronesia, but Micronesian representatives might care to know that it seeks to portray a day in the life of various young people throughout the world, including that of a Soviet pole vaulter and an unemployed youth from Belfast. I am sure that Micronesians would find that as balanced as it is relevant to their life-styles.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.