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Fifty-second Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FIFTEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 13 May 1985, at 3.00 p.m.

President: Mr. MAXEY (United Kingdom)

Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1984: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued)

Examination of petitions listed in the annex to the agenda

Organization of work

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1984: TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1871) (continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Zeder, Senior Adviser, took a place at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT: I call first on Mr. Oscar DeBrum, Chief Secretary of the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Special Adviser to the Administering Authority.

Mr. DeBRUM (Special Adviser): I am Oscar DeBrum and I am the Chief Secretary of the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. Joining me as members of the Marshall Islands delegation are Mr. Carl Ingram, Special Assistant to the President, and our Chief Planner, Mr. Gunasekera.

On behalf of President Kabua, the Government and the people of the Marshall Islands, we thank the Council very sincerely for the opportunity to be present here and make a statement concerning political, economic and social developments in our Republic during the past year.

We congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election and wish you a successful term of office. We also convey to the outgoing President and current Vice-President, Ambassador Rapin, our sincere appreciation of the services he rendered last year and wish him luck in his present task.

I shall address myself first to political developments. In the centuries before contact with the Western world, we in the Marshall Islands and our brothers across the seas were self-governing under our own system of traditional leadership and values. Over the last 100 years this system has survived and we have maintained a degree of self-government under the successive administrations of Germany, Japan and the United States, the Administering Authority. In this respect we are not unique. Many member countries of the United Nations have gone through this kind of historical process, and have finally emerged as fully self-governing nations. It is our desire also to be fully self-governing under our own constitution. As this Council reaffirmed last year, it is the inalienable right of the people of Micronesia to enjoy self-determination, including the right to independence.

We have sought to be self-governing in free association with the Administering Authority, the United States. The relationship of free association was freely and decisively chosen by our people in a plebiscite held in September 1983. In giving

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a mandate for this particular relationship, the people of the Marshall Islands exercised their democratic right to self-determination, as set forth in the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement. Furthermore, over the past 40 years, with the assistance of the Administering Authority, for which we are grateful, we have achieved the political maturity, economic development, educational standards and social advances necessary for self-government.

In this context I wish to quote the great President of the United States, President Reagan, who said in his address to the people of Micronesia in September 1983:

"Under the trusteeship we have come to know you and respect you as members of our American family and now, as happens to all families, members grow up and leave home ..."

The time has come for the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. We request in the strongest manner possible that this Council, and the United Nations as a whole, take every step necessary and possible to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement this year. We note that ours is the only trusteeship remaining to be terminated.

It is our desire to enter into free association simultaneously with termination of the trusteeship, and we ask that the Council urge the Administering Authority to approve the Compact of Free Association without amendment and without delay.

I should like to report to the Council the progress made towards approval of the Compact of Free Association by the Congress of the United States, as we see it. Last year we reported to the Council that after approval by the people, the Cabinet and the Nitijela - our Parliament - the Compact had been introduced by President Reagan to the Congress for its ratification. Although last year the Congress was unable to approve it, we hope that this year it will do so without delay. We are informed that last year's congressional session was shortened by Presidential elections and that that was one reason why Congress could not act upon the Compact. It should have no excuse this year.

This year the Compact was again introduced by President Reagan to the Congress. Hearings have been concluded in both the Senate and the House. In the Senate, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has approved the Compact and transmitted it to the full Senate for consideration. In the House, the Foreign Affairs Sub-Committee on Asian and Pacific Affairs has approved the Compact and

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forwarded it to the full Committee on Foreign Affairs. Consideration by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs is scheduled for tomorrow, 14 May. In respect of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, we have been informed that it will consider the Compact on or about 21 May.

The people and the Government of the Marshall Islands have done their part. We have negotiated in good faith; we have approved the Compact in a plebescite observed by the United Nations; we have concluded all Government approval processes; and we have answered all questions put to us by the United States, the Administering Authority. It is now up to the Administering Authority to complete the process.

One of the important features of the Compact, which has been of concern to this Council, is the nuclear claims agreement, the main provisions of which were outlined in our statement to the Council last year. They include a \$150 million fund to settle all claims arising out of the nuclear-testing programme conducted by the Administering Authority in the Marshall Islands. Under this agreement the people of Bikini will receive an annual income of over \$16,000 per family during the first 15 years after the effective date of the Compact, and at the end of that period they will have a trust fund of \$65.5 million to address the needs of future generations. The people of Enewetak will have an annual average family income of over \$11,000 and a trust fund for future generations of \$13.46 million. Similar arrangements will be made for the people of Rongelap and Utirik.

Another area of concern to the Council as well as to the Administering Authority and the Marshall Islands is the quality and extent of medical care available to those people affected by the nuclear testing programme. In this regard, I should like to report that the United States Congress, pursuant to the Burton Health Care Bill - Public Law 96-205 - has provided \$4 million to establish a comprehensive medical treatment programme for the people of the four atolls of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap and Utirik, and for the people of the other atolls affected by the nuclear-testing programme. The contract to establish this programme has been awarded to John Short and Associates, a subsidiary of the fifth largest hospital management corporation in the United States. The company has already commenced work on the programme.

The Burton health care programme just described is in addition to the provision made under section 177 of the Compact Agreement that \$2 million annually will be made available to our Government from the earnings of the \$150 million

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nuclear trust fund to purchase services from the Administering Authority to assist us to include in our health care system programmes and services related to the consequences of the nuclear-testing programme.

Another aspect of the problems arising from nuclear tests relates to the clean-up of the atolls affected and the resettlement of their people. An agreement was signed on 13 March this year under which the Administering Authority agreed to assist in the rehabilitation of Bikini Atoll. We have requested funds from the Administering Authority to resettle the Engebi Islands in Enewetak Atoll and to assist the people in Rongelap Atoll, as they wish, to move to Ebadon Island in Kwajalein Atoll.

We have discussed the issue of nuclear testing in some detail. The reason for this is to indicate that although the testing programme resulted in very unfortunate consequences for the people of the Marshall Islands we feel that adequate compensation has been made, and that further compensation is contemplated in the Compact of Free Association. It should not be forgotten that the people of the Marshall Islands, who were called upon to make sacrifices in connection with the nuclear-testing programme, have through their sacrifices made a significant contribution to the advancement of the scientific knowledge of the free world.

I wish to report to the Council certain other developments in the political sphere. These relate to the intensification of our efforts to establish closer co-operation with other countries in the region. In October 1983 we had the privilege of joining our counterparts in Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia and prescribing co-operative efforts to advance our common interest in air service matters. This past week we have taken the first steps towards negotiating with the Federated States of Micronesia and Continental Air Micronesia the creation of a new air carrier to provide continued and enhanced air services to the region.

Also during the period under review we had the privilege of joining the Asia Pacific Parliamentarians' Union and of becoming a fully-fledged member of the South Pacific Commission. Furthermore, diplomatic notes were exchanged between our Government and that of Japan. Concurrently, an agreement was signed under which the Government of Japan would assist us in the construction of a fishing base in Majuro.

We are very pleased to report that the system of government established under our Constitution of 1979 is functioning smoothly. At the national level, the first

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Nitijela completed its first full term of office and the second Nitijela was elected to office in November of 1983. At the subnational level, the Constitution provides for the establishment of 24 local government councils for the 24 populated atolls and islands. In 21 of these atolls local government institutions have been established with appropriate constitutions and are currently functioning. In the case of Majuro Atoll the process is under way for the amalgamation of the local government bodies of Majuro and Laura into one single institution. The already established councils are preparing themselves to assume the responsibility of bringing about development at the local level within the framework of a unitary constitution and a national development plan.

Every possible assistance has been granted by our Government to support these institutions in their efforts. For example, as a starting measure, a percentage of the total domestically generated revenue of the national Government has been earmarked by law for distribution to those local government councils. In the case of Kwajalein, where 21 per cent of the population reside, a special statutory body called the Kwajalein Atoll Development Authority was established by law early this year to plan and implement the development of Kwajalein Atoll under the direction of the Kwajalein community, with funding from the Compact and from the Administering Authority. During the first five years of the Compact, the Kwajalein Atoll Development Authority will receive 27 per cent of the grant funds earmarked for capital projects. Very shortly the Government expects to launch a project to assist each individual local government council formulate its own five-year development plan, in conformity with the goals and objectives of the current national development plan.

At this point we shall discuss the economic development in the Marshall Islands during the past year.

In the sphere of economic development, we wish to recall that concern was expressed by the Council last year and the year before on the state of our development plan and the availability of statistical information. We are very happy to report that we have now formulated a five-year development plan. A copy of this plan was submitted to the Council in January this year and a summary of it is attached to our statement this year. This plan is only the first five-year phase of our 15-year development programme to cover the Compact period. A perspective plan to cover the remaining 10 years of the Compact period is at the moment being formulated by our Government. We wish to thank the United Nations for the assistance given us in formulating our development plan.

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In the area of statistics, we have been trying hard to strengthen the statistical base needed for proper development planning and effective policy formulation. With the assistance of the South Pacific Commission, a Statistical Act and a Census Act have recently been drafted and will be introduced for approval by the Nitijela, our Parliament, during its August session.

The development plan's overall objective is the enhancement of self-reliance in the economy. It aims, in particular, at the correction of the structural imbalances in the economy, regarding which the Council has expressed concern in the past. It is unnecessary for me to point out that this is a formidable task. In order to ensure the success of our efforts, technical assistance is as important to us as financial assistance. Hence, we request that a United Nations development planning project be continued in our country for the next few years, during which time the need for such a project is likely to be most crucial. With permission from this Council, we wish to state that direct development assistance received by us from the United Nations is extremely limited, as shown by the Indicative Planning Figures, and is allocated as one block grant to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands as a whole. We wish to request that ways and means be explored of enhancing this assistance and allocating it separately to the three different political entities in the Trust Territory.

Having outlined our programme in the area of development planning, we now wish to turn to other activities in the sphere of economic development. Broadly these relate to the financial status of our Government, infrastructure development, progress in the private sector and explorations of our resource development potential.

The financial status of our Government continued to improve during the period under review. A deficit elimination programme started in 1983 made further headway and consequently we expect the cumulative deficit to be reduced significantly to a level of only \$1 million by the end of fiscal year 1985. This compares with a figure of \$6.8 million in 1982. We were able to achieve this reduction as a result of measures adopted on both the revenue side and the expenditure side of the budget.

On the revenue side we adopted several measures to enhance our domestic revenue. These included the raising of import duties, income tax and health service charges. Concurrently, steps have been taken to improve the collection of charges on public utilities. A computerized billing system for power supply is now

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completed and soon will be ready to be undertaken by the Marshalls Energy Commission which has been operating the power plant in Majuro. We have also now set up, with technical assistance from the Department of the Interior of the Administering Authority, a cash management system under which we are able to invest our temporarily idle funds.

On the expenditure side, we have made efforts to keep our recurrent expenditures to the absolute minimum, through a freeze on hiring and a tight rein on salary increases. Our personnel service expenditures rose only marginally, from \$8.4 million to \$8.7 million, during the period 1982-1984.

The above-mentioned revenue and expenditure measures would be of limited success without the improvement in the management of Government operations. More effective budgetary control of our Government's financial operations has been achieved through a computerized system which has been in existence since January last year. The Auditor General's office has also made considerable progress since its inception two years ago. With technical assistance from the Department of the Interior of the Administering Authority we are now formulating legislation and regulations in the areas of procurement, property management, accounts receivable, budgeting and Government administration.

During the period under consideration, progress was made in certain infrastructure development activities. Construction of a fishing base, begun in 1984, as reported, with the assistance of the Government of Japan, is now partially complete. This project, costing \$2.9 million, will provide fuel, water, provisions, cold storage facilities for fishing fleets and, eventually, dry docking facilities. The project is expected to double the number of fishing vessels making use of Majuro's facilities to 300 a year. The base will enable the Marshalls Energy Commission, which operates the Majuro fuel tank complex, to sell over 6 million gallons of fuel to fishing vessels and ships around the Marshalls in 1985. This is one of the achievements of our privatization programme. The revenue from this venture will assist in repayment of the loan obtained to finance our power plant.

In the Marshall Islands, two more airstrips were completed in 1984 thus enabling all but one of our 24 atolls to have air services. In 1984, the Airline of the Marshall Islands, which provides domestic air service, was able to venture into the area of international service by leasing service to the Airline of Kiribati to operate the flight between the Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Fiji.

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In the area of communications, a new telephone system, 200 pairs digital type, was installed in Ebeye linking it with a satellite communications system.

These infrastructure developments were not achieved easily. For some of the projects we had to borrow substantial funds from abroad and, as a result, we are now left with a considerable debt. However, the projects were worthwhile, even if they entailed borrowing, because they were absolutely necessary to enable us to lay the foundations of our future development. Furthermore, we are happy to report that we have been honouring our debt commitments on a full and regular basis.

The period under review saw a considerable degree of progress in the private sector. Retail trade in Majuro was given a significant boost, and competition in this area increased, by the opening of a shopping centre by Gibson's, a Hawaii-based retail chain, and by the remodelling and expansion of the existing major trading concern, Mr. Robert Reimers Enterprises. Several restaurants were also opened in Majuro during this period. Work was commenced on a joint Japan-Marshallese operated shell button factory in Majuro.

Copra production, which constitutes the major economic activity on the Islands and supplies the main export commodity of our country, however, faced mixed developments. The volume of production was drastically reduced owing to the adverse effects of the long drought in 1983. We were fortunate, however, to find that this adverse situation was adequately compensated by a rise in copra prices in the world market. Consequently, Tobolar, our copra processing plant, was able to generate profits which made possible the repayment of its debt and the donation of \$100,000 towards drought relief assistance to the people in the outer islands to augment the food assistance programmes of the United States Department of Agriculture, for which we are grateful.

It is important to note that most of this development was possible only because of our new power plant, which was commissioned in 1982. Electrical consumption increased by 50 per cent in 1984. It is interesting to note that the plant's operating cost was 8.8 cents per kilowatt hour, the lowest in the region, we are informed.

In the area of resources and development, a major event was a preliminary survey of our sea-bed resources conducted by the United States Geological Survey. Its preliminary findings indicated the presence of economically exploitable quantities of cobalt crust on the sea-bed mounts within our exclusive economic zone. In another development, a team of experts sponsored by the Administering

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Authority's Trade and Development Program visited us to conduct preliminary work on a feasibility study of the development of fisheries. Meanwhile, our Government entered into an agreement with the Japanese which allows Japan to continue to fish in our exclusive economic zone. This contract is expected to increase revenue for my Government this year.

We shall now discuss social developments in the Marshall Islands during the past year.

In the field of social development, the year under review witnessed the continuation of adverse consequences resulting from the long drought of 1983, particularly on the outer islands. Food shortages had developed due to damage and destruction to food crops. Our Government provided relief to all those affected, by distributing food and by launching a food replanting programme to replant the subsistence crops. The Government also continued to perform its activities aimed at improving the quality of life and degree of community participation in national development.

In the area of health the most noteworthy development is related to the new Government hospital, which is nearing completion and is expected to be commissioned in the middle of this year. The Government has now awarded a contract to the Sisters of Mercy Health Services Corporation to manage the new hospital. Completion of this hospital is a good investment because it will assist in substituting in-country health care for a substantial proportion of our medical referral services, currently carried out in Honolulu at great expense, and will eliminate some of the problems faced by the old hospital, including shortages in the prescription drugs. We have initiated a programme better to identify the need for off-island referrals. Another important development we wish to report is the completion of the renovation of the hospital in Ebeye.

Despite those developments we continue to face some problems in the health service area. In particular, our outer islands dispensary system is still incapable of delivering an adequate standard of medical care. We have formulated a plan to improve this situation and have requested \$700,000 from the Administering Authority to begin implementing this plan. We are pleased to report that the Japanese Government this year donated \$750,000 worth of medical supplies to our country, part of which will be allocated to the people in the outer islands and remote areas. We are very grateful for this support from Japan.

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Work on the Majuro sewer system has just commenced and is expected to be completed next year.

In the field of education, elementary enrolments increased by 7 per cent - that is, 450 - for public schools and by 17 per cent - that is, 316 - for private schools. At the secondary level, however, enrolments increased by only 2 per cent for both types of school. Limitation of both facilities and staffing constrained the expansion of secondary-school opportunities. During the period under consideration progress was made on several points with regard to the activities of our Ministry of Education. These included elementary instruction with emphasis on local curriculum development and indigenous cultural and language instruction. With regard to the expansion of facilities, the renovation and reconstruction of school facilities was the highest-priority project. Work on a new cafetorium at the Marshall Islands high school has just commenced and should be completed within 12 months.

Following up on the decision taken in connection with the 1983 Saipan Accords, our Government has taken preliminary steps to establish the College of Micronesia School of Nursing in Majuro.

Finally, we wish to end this statement with a reference to the developments in Ebeye. As Mayor Alvin Jacklick of the Kwajalein Atoll local government council pointed out in his testimony before a United States Congressional Committee, significant improvements have been made in Kwajalein Atoll. Those improvements are the result of projects funded by the Administering Authority. Such projects include the rehabilitation and maintenance of the sewer system and the salt-water flushing system; the upgrading of the freshwater system; the upgrading of the power plant; the construction of an 80,000 square feet container yard and an 18,000 square feet warehouse; and the paving of the main circumferal road. Other facilities installed at the initiative of the Kwajalein Atoll Development Authority and with assistance from our national Government include the planting of trees to serve as a windbreak, the construction of 12 classrooms for the Ebeye headstart programme, the construction of an office building for the Authority, the renovation of existing water tanks and gutters on public housing, and the construction of a new power and desalination plant.

The foregoing are the major political, economic and social developments in our Republic during the past 12 months. These developments constitute a continuation and growth of a 40-year-old process of preparation for self-government which we

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have undertaken with the assistance of the Administering Authority. This process, as we said at the beginning, has enabled us to mature in terms of political, economic, social and educational development sufficiently to be able to take over and discharge successfully the responsibilities of self-government. It has been a long journey for us, both in terms of making those preparations and in terms of difficult and costly negotiations on the relationship of free association. Now we stand on the threshold of self-government; we are only one short step away from it.

We earnestly request members of the Council to assist us to take this short step. We ask the Council to take all the action necessary to terminate the trusteeship this year and to urge the United States Congress to approve the Compact expeditiously.

We thank the Administering Authority for the assistance it has given us for our political, economic, social and education advancement. We thank the Council and the United Nations as a whole for supervising the administration of the trusteeship. We thank all United Nations agencies, other organizations, countries and individuals that supported us in the past. We sincerely hope that such assistance will continue in the future.

We understand that the Administering Authority has invited the Council to send a visiting mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands this summer. If the Council saw fit to send such a mission, we should welcome it, with the understanding that the visit would be for the purpose, among other things, of completing the formal requirements for the termination of trusteeship.

I wish to thank the members of the Council again. We shall be happy to answer any questions that members might wish to put.

The PRESIDENT: I now call on Mr. Fred Zeder, Personal Representative of the President of the United States for Micronesian Status Negotiations.

Mr. ZEDER (Senior Adviser): Mr. President, first I should like to welcome you to the Council and to congratulate you and Vice-President Rapin upon your election to office. We have benefited greatly from the outstanding work of your predecessors and I am fully confident that this benefit will continue.

It is with a sense of great pleasure and accomplishment that I address the Council today on the subject of the future political status of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. In my capacity as United States chief negotiator, I spoke to the Council last year and reported that the Compact of Free Association had been approved by the peoples and Governments of the

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Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. My Government believes that the events of the last 12 months were significant and directly relevant to the Council's considerations, thus warranting this special report.

Negotiations on the future political status of the Trust Territory began 16 years ago, in 1969. During that period the peoples of the Trust Territory have made momentous decisions with respect to the type of future relationship with my country and with the rest of the world that they will pursue. They have also set their own course for their own interrelationship. History has shown that the process of negotiating as equals with the United States has been the well-spring of the choices which the peoples of the Trust Territory have made and for the full self-government which they will soon enjoy.

Ambassador Feldman has provided a record of the events with respect to the approval of the Compact of Free Association by the freely associated States. The three plebiscites were the first and major steps in fulfilling one of our most important obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement and the United Nations Charter, that is, to "promote the development of the inhabitants of the trust territory towards self-government or independence" in a manner consistent with "the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned". In the view of my Government, the Council has expressed satisfaction with respect to the conduct of the plebiscites and can feel justifiable pride in helping deliver the peoples of the Trust Territory to the threshold of self-government.

The question before us now is the final approval of the Compact of Free Association by the United States Congress and the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. My Government has already approved the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Covenant, and all of its terms save those affecting citizenship and the conferral of the new political status are already in effect - in spite of some remarks that I understand were made in this Chamber this morning. President Reagan first submitted the Compact to the Congress on 30 March 1984, and, owing to our national elections, as was pointed out earlier, resubmitted it on 20 February 1985. During its pendency in the Congress the Compact has been the subject of 23 separate hearings. Now, as this Council conducts its annual deliberations, the Compact is on the calendar for unanimous consent in the United States Senate. In our House of Representatives the final committee meetings before the Compact is voted upon will take place this week - as a matter of fact, tomorrow. President Reagan has instructed all the officers of his Administration to dedicate themselves to the

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approval of the Compact so that it can enter into force, in accordance with the wishes of the freely associated States, this year.

I believe it is important to note that my Government is committed to an early resolution of the issues which prevent final consideration and approval of the Compact of Free Association with respect to Palau. Our discussions with President Remeliik and his Administration on matters relating to the Compact approval process and its ultimate implementation are now taking place. Even as we speak, discussions with representatives of the Government of Palau on these issues are continuing. I believe that both sides are dedicated to the Compact of Free Association and to termination of the trusteeship for Palau as early as possible. My Government sincerely appreciates Palau's support for approval of the Compact by the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia and termination of the trusteeship for those jurisdictions and the Northern Mariana Islands this year.

In closing this report I would like to share with the Council the sense of honour which my country has felt in being charged with trusteeship responsibilities for the Trust Territories. The Council has heard, and will undoubtedly continue to hear, criticisms of my country with respect to the manner in which it has carried out its trusteeship obligations. The fact that each of the political jurisdictions of the Trust Territory has freely and without reservation chosen to create and maintain preferential and special ties with the United States after termination of the Trusteeship Agreement constitutes the only final and lasting judgement of my country's performance under the trusteeship.

Together with this sense of honour my country also expresses a strong sense of pride with respect to political and constitutional development in the Trust Territory. Without exception, the Northern Marianas, the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia has each freely chosen a governmental system based on the representative democracy practised in the United States and other countries of the free world. They are each committed to the protection of fundamental freedoms for all and to the protection of human rights and the rights of minorities.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this special report to the Trusteeship Council, and on behalf of President Ronald Reagan I wish the Council well in these very important deliberations.

EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS LISTED IN THE ANNEX TO THE AGENDA (see T/1872/Add.1)

The PRESIDENT: There is already available to members of the Council a list of petitioners whose requests to be heard by the Council have been granted. Those requests have been circulated in documents T/PET.10/329 and 331 to 341. They were granted by the then President, Mr. Rapin, in accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 80 of the Council's rules of procedure, which authorize the President to act on behalf of the Council in this respect.

Since the Council has been in session I have received two more requests from would-be petitioners to be heard by the Council. One is from Mr. Roman Tmetuchl, Governor of Airai State, in Palau, who asks that Mr. Leslie Tewid be heard by the Council as his personal representative. The other request, made via the United Methodist Office to the United Nations, is on behalf of a Mr. Roman Bedor, a private citizen of Palau, who also wishes to be heard by the Council. He is en route to New York and therefore could not submit his request personally. Unless there is an objection, I propose that those two petitioners be allowed to appear before the Council at the appropriate time.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: There may be further such requests, and I shall inform the Council of them as they are received.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: Since we have completed - rather more rapidly than on previous occasions, I think - the hearing of statements by representatives of the Administering Authority and the Trust Territory, I would have liked to go on tomorrow to the hearing of petitioners, but I am informed that it will not be possible to arrange in the time available for the appearance before the Council tomorrow of a sufficient number of petitioners to make a meeting worth while. I propose, therefore, that our next meeting take place on Wednesday morning at 10.30 and that we begin the hearing of petitioners then. The Administering Authority has asked us to distribute two documents. One is the status report on the resettlement programme for Enewetak Atoll; the other is a briefing document on Ebeye redevelopment and Gugeegue development. Copies of each of those documents will be made available to all members of the Council very shortly.

The meeting rose at 4.10 p.m.