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Forty-fifth Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 8 June 1978, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. GARRIGUE-GUYONNAUD (France)

Report of the Secretary-General on Credentials

Co-operation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
(continued)

Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (continued)

Dissemination of information on the United Nations and the international
trusteeship system in Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General (continued)

Arrangements for the dispatch of a periodic visiting mission to the Trust Territory
of the Pacific Islands 1979 (continued)

Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended
30 June 1977: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (continued)

Adoption of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council
/[Security Council resolution 70 (1949)]

Closure of the forty-fifth session

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The meeting was called to order at 3.45 p.m.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CREDENTIALS (T/1793)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should like first to draw the Council's attention to the report of the Secretary-General on Credentials contained in document T/1793.

If I hear no comments, I propose that the Council decide to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on Credentials.

It was so decided.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
(continued)

DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): At the 1480th meeting of the Council on 31 May I read out a draft message from the Trusteeship Council to the Secretary-General with respect to the invitation extended to the Council to participate as an observer in the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination to be held in Geneva in August this year. Members of the Council decided then to hold further consultations on the draft message. After an exchange of views, the agreed text of the message was distributed to members of the Council.

If there are no comments on the revised text, I shall take it that the Council authorizes the President to transmit the message to the Secretary-General.

It was so decided.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL
TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM IN TRUST TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
(T/1790) (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Members will recall that at the 1479th meeting of the Council on 30 May, the representative of the Soviet Union, in referring to paragraph 9 of the report of the Secretary-General (document T/1790), asked for the list of addresses contained therein. I understand that Mr. Przymlycki, Chief of the Policy and Programme Section

(The President)

of the Office of Public Information (OPI), has already made the list available to the representative of the Soviet Union. A copy of that list will be placed on the files of the Secretariat and will be made available to members of the Council who wish to consult it.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE DISPATCH OF A PERIODIC VISITING MISSION TO THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS 1979 (DRAFT RESOLUTION T/L.1210) (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I should now like to turn to draft resolution T/L.1210 concerning the periodic visiting mission to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in 1979, which was adopted at the 1480th meeting on 31 May 1978. I understand that a member of the Council wishes to make a statement in this regard.

Mr. BROCHENIN (France) (interpretation from French): In submitting the draft resolution relating to the visiting mission, I clarified the position in relation to the composition of the mission and pointed out that, as I understood it, the mission would be composed of one member of each delegation here present. While holding to that point of view, however, I understand that the Council can at any time decide to hold consultations to change the composition of the mission, and if, in the coming months, any one of us should consider that the mission should have more members, there will be nothing to prevent the Council from having consultations and, possibly, holding another meeting at which it might decide to increase the number of members of the mission.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): If there are no comments, I shall take it that the members of the Council are in agreement with the suggestion made by the representative of France.

I should like to remind members that, as indicated at the 1480th meeting of the Council, when the resolutions contained in documents T/L.1209 and T/L.1210 were adopted the Council decided that the names of the persons to be appointed by the respective Governments as members of the missions to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in 1978 and 1979 would be approved automatically as soon as they were received. I hope that the Council will not oppose that procedure.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 JUNE 1977: TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1786; T/L.1208) (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall now take up the report and conclusions of the Drafting Committee (T/L.1211), which we shall consider section by section. First I shall give the floor to the representative of the United Kingdom who will introduce the report.

Miss HARDEN (United Kingdom): On 23 May the Council appointed a Drafting Committee composed of the representatives of France and the United Kingdom, which has held four meetings. As is customary, those meetings were also attended by representatives of the Administering Authority and by the Secretary of the Council and members of his staff, all of whom contributed valuable assistance to the Committee in preparing its report. However, the conclusions and recommendations drafted by the Committee are of course those of the representatives of France and the United Kingdom.

The Drafting Committee hopes that these conclusions and recommendations which are to be found in document T/L.1211 will prove acceptable to members of the Council.

The Committee also recommends that the Council adopt the revised working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, contained in T/L.1208/Add.1 and 2 as the basic text to be used for the chapter relating to conditions in that Territory to be included in the next report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council.

Before concluding, I should like to draw the attention of members of the Council to a few minor revisions made by the Drafting Committee to document T/L.1211. These are for the most part either editorial corrections or a matter of translation. Unfortunately, there was not time to circulate those amendments as a corrigendum, but a written version has been circulated to members informally, which I hope they have in front of them. I would, however, note the following which perhaps requires some explanation.

In paragraph 19, the Drafting Committee feel that the drafting of the last sentence might suggest that the Council regrets the powers given to the districts. This, of course, contradicts what is stated in the following paragraph, where the Council "notes with satisfaction" the great authority devolved on district governments. The Drafting Committee therefore proposes

(Miss Harden, United Kingdom)

deleting the last sentence of paragraph 19 and rewording the second sentence of that paragraph to read as follows:

"Since there would be an advantage in this transition to elected district governments taking place uniformly throughout the Trust Territory, the Council, while recognizing their right to do so, regrets that the district legislatures of Palau and the Marshall Islands have decided not to exercise their prerogatives to enact district charters."

The next amendment to which perhaps some explanation is needed is in paragraph 27. The Committee suggests inserting "certain" before "food-stuffs" in the last line, to make it clear that all food-stuffs are not regarded as non-essential.

The next proposed revision is the heading of paragraph 48, which the Committee suggests amending to "Light industry" since this more accurately reflects what the paragraph is about.

The Committee also suggests a change in the section on higher education, paragraphs 67 to 69 of the report, which we feel would be more logical. The proposal is that the last sentence in paragraph 69 should become the first sentence of paragraph 67, which deals with primary and secondary education, and that the first sentence of paragraph 69 should be slightly reworded, by deleting the words "language, culture and vocational activity" at the end of the first sentence, and inserting "technical and vocational training", since this would be in accordance with the heading of paragraph 69.

The last amendment of any substance concerns paragraph 91. The Committee believes that the Council should "welcome" the intention expressed by the Administering Authority. That was the wording last year and there is no reason to believe that the Council no longer welcomes this policy.

It has been pointed out to me that in reading out the corrections in paragraph 19, I should also have said: delete the last sentence. This does appear in the paper which was distributed informally.

Also, in paragraph 90 - I do not know whether that requires an explanation - in the second line the word "upon" should replace the words "only after". I think that is self-explanatory, but perhaps I should mention it because it is "upon independence" that these things take place. I think the other changes, which are linguistic, probably do not require an explanation.

(Miss Harden, United Kingdom)

Finally, the Drafting Committee recommends that the Trusteeship Council adopt the conclusions and recommendations set out in document T/L.1211, and include these at the end of the Trusteeship Council's report.

Mr. BROCHENIN (France) (interpretation from French): With regard to paragraph 90, I think that in French it should read: "il ne prendrait effet qu'au moment de la levée de l'accord de tutelle".

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for presenting the report of the Drafting Committee. I propose that the Council take up first the draft conclusions and recommendations contained in the annex to the report, document T/L.1211, and consider them section by section.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall begin with section A, General, that is, paragraphs 1 to 10 inclusive. As there are no comments on that section I shall now put to the vote section A, General, paragraphs 1 to 10 of document T/L.1211.

Section A was adopted by 2 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

THE PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We turn now to section B, as amended, "Political Advancement", which comprises paragraphs 11 to 21 inclusive. Does any member wish to comment on section B, as amended?

Mr. BYATT (United Kingdom): Mr. President, you have, in fact, answered the question I was going to ask, which was whether the text to be put to the vote would incorporate the amendments already suggested.

Mr. KHARLAMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like the representative of the United Kingdom to explain what kind of amendment to paragraph 19 of section B he has in mind.

Mr. BYATT (United Kingdom): It was, in fact, not so much a United Kingdom amendment but a change, as I understand it, to the Drafting Committee's draft, which my colleague was explaining, and which is as follows:

In paragraph 19, the first sentence, down to the words "Beginning in 1978", stands as it is. In the next sentence, the word "While" in the English text is removed and the word "Since" is inserted in its place, and the sentence then remains as it is down to the words "throughout the Trust Territory, the Council" after which a comma is inserted and the next word "recognizes" is replaced by the words "while recognizing their right to do so regrets". The text then continues with the words "that the district legislatures of Palau and the Marshall Islands have decided not to exercise their prerogatives to enact district charters.", as at present.

The last sentence of paragraph 19 is deleted, since the thought contained in it is now contained in the second sentence.

Mr. KHARLAMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to thank the representative of the United Kingdom for the explanation given. If there are no other comments before the voting on this section, I should like to request a separate vote on its paragraph 18.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall, accordingly, begin by taking a separate vote on paragraph 18 of section B.

Paragraph 18 was adopted by 2 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall now vote on section B, as a whole, as amended.

Section B, as amended, was adopted by 2 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall turn now to section C, "Economic advancement", which comprises paragraphs 22 to 58 inclusive.

I should like to recall that this section has had minor amendments made to it as proposed by the United Kingdom. I shall, therefore, put section C, as amended to the vote.

Section C, as amended, was adopted by 2 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We turn now to section D, "Social advancement", which comprises paragraphs 59 to 64 inclusive.

Section D was adopted by 2 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall now take up section E, "Educational advancement", which comprises paragraphs 65 to 71 inclusive. This section has been amended, as pointed out earlier by the representative of the United Kingdom.

If there are no comments on section E, I shall put it to the vote.

Section E, as amended, was adopted by 2 votes to none, with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Finally, the Council will turn to section F, entitled "Constitutional developments and progress towards self-government or independence", which comprises paragraphs 72 to 94 inclusive. This section has been amended, as pointed out by the representative of the United Kingdom. Are there any comments on the section as a whole?

Mr. KHARLAMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): If members of the Council agree, I should like to add the following words at the end of paragraph 72: "and the Declaration on decolonization". The paragraph would then read as follows:

"The Trusteeship Council reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Micronesia to self-determination, including the right to independence in accordance with the Charter, the Trusteeship Agreement and the Declaration on decolonization (resolution 1514 (XV))."

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Are there any observations on the suggestion just made by the representative of the USSR?

Mr. BROCHENIN (France) (interpretation from French): I should merely like to recall that France, for its part, never voted in favour of the Declaration in resolution 1514 (XV) on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

Mr. BYATT (United Kingdom): The United Kingdom also did not vote in favour of the Declaration at the time, and in the context of the Trust Territory, I think we would attach particular importance to the provisions of the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement. But if an amendment of this kind would enable the Soviet Union to support this paragraph, I am not sure that we would wish to raise objection. If that would enable the Soviet Union to approve paragraph 72, then my delegation would not object.

Mr. KHARLAMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I know the position of the United Kingdom and France on this issue at the time of the adoption of the Declaration on decolonization. None the less, it is praiseworthy that the United Kingdom and France, after the adoption of the Declaration, were able very successfully to complete and carry out the decolonization of many former territories. Therefore, the positions of this or that country at that specific time and their positions today are completely different as bases for voting. When I made the proposal to add this phrase, I had in mind what has been said in the General Assembly and in the Committee on decolonization as well, and essentially all the work of the United Nations on this question - which is somewhat broader than what is specifically stated in the Charter and in the Trusteeship Agreement.

If we are speaking about the Trusteeship Agreement, were these not originally colonial territories? Yes, they belonged to Germany originally, and so on. At the time of the war the United States received this Territory as a strategic territory under the Agreement. But did it not do so in order to keep it in this or that form of colonial dependency? That is why I wanted to make the amendment, and we are ready to vote in favour.

Mr. BYATT (United Kingdom): I just wish to ask the representative of the Soviet Union if he could clarify for my benefit the position of his delegation on this section. As I explained, we would really prefer to keep the paragraph as it is, but if the addition of the reference to the Declaration would enable the Soviet delegation to support section F of the draft report, then we would certainly not object to the inclusion of that reference. Would the representative of the Soviet Union be able to support section F if we put this amendment in?

Mr. KHARLAMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Yes. I am just asking for an amendment to paragraph 72. I am ready to vote for it. In addition, I should like to ask a question. In the heading of section F we have the wording "Constitutional developments and progress towards self-government or independence". Where did we get this word "self-government" when the relevant documents speak of "self-determination", not self-government?

Mr. BROCHENIN (France) (interpretation from French): As an author of the draft I should merely like to make it clear that in using this title we referred to the document adopted last year which used the words "constitutional developments and progress towards self-government or independence". We did not see any need to change the title.

Mr. KHARLAMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): The 1974 report to the Security Council says something different. I do not know how this happened. We did not pay attention to it at the time, but now we see that the title has been changed in the meantime. Could someone perhaps explain?

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Could the representative of the Soviet Union give the title in the 1974 report, please?

Mr. KHARLAMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I do not have the text to hand to this moment, but it referred to self-determination.

Mr. COOKS (United States of America): I should like to reply to the question raised by the representative of the Soviet Union regarding the terminology and the word "self-government". The terminology is derived from article 6 of the Trusteeship Agreement, which states in paragraph 1 that in discharging its obligations under Article 76 (b) of the Charter, the Administering Authority shall:

"1. foster the development of such political institutions as are suited to the Trust Territory and shall promote the development of the inhabitants of the trust territory toward self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances of the Trust Territory and its peoples ..."

The paragraph continues, but that is the specific reference.

Mr. KHARLAMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am satisfied with the explanation given by the representative of the United States.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall now move on to the adoption of section F.

Mr. BROCHENIN (France) (interpretation from French): I believe there is a slight error in paragraph 75 of the French text. In the fourth line, it says: "apres la relevée de l'Accord" and the word "relevée" should be "levée". It is the termination that is meant; and a verb should be added so that the sense is grammatically correct. After the word "convenue" in the French should be added the words "de créer" - to establish.

I believe this does not affect the English text, but we must bring the French into line in this regard.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I understand that has been noted. That correction refers only to the French text.

If there are no further comments, I shall put section F, paragraphs 72 to 94 inclusive, to the vote.

It is my understanding that the representative of the Soviet Union requested an amendment to paragraph 72. I should like to ask him if he maintains that request in view of what the United Kingdom representative has said.

Mr. KHARLAMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The request for the amendment is not maintained; therefore the section as a whole may be put to the vote.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I shall now put to the vote section F as a whole, paragraphs 72 to 94 inclusive.

Section F was adopted by 2 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

Mr. COOKS (United States of America): I should like to say that it is customary for the Administering Authority to abstain from voting on conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Trusteeship Council, inasmuch as they are addressed to the Administering Authority. I wish to assure the Council that, as in the past, the United States will consider all the conclusions and recommendations very carefully.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We now move to paragraph 4 of the report of the Drafting Committee:

"4. The Committee recommends to the Trusteeship Council that it adopt the revised working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/L.1208 and Add.1 and 2) as the basic text for the chapter on conditions in that Territory to be included in the next report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council."

Paragraph 4 of the draft report was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I now put to the vote paragraph 5 of the report of the Drafting Committee:

"5. The Committee also recommends that the Trusteeship Council adopt the conclusions and recommendations set out in the annex and include them at the end of the report."

Paragraph 5 of the draft report was adopted by 3 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I shall now put to the vote the report of the Drafting Committee as a whole, as amended (T/L.1211).

The draft report of the Drafting Committee as a whole, as amended, was adopted by 3 votes to 1.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I shall now call upon those representatives who wish to explain their vote after the vote.

Mr. COOKS (United States of America): Although my delegation voted in favour of the report as a whole, I wish to reiterate for the record that the United States delegation has taken no position on the recommendations or conclusions of the report of the Trusteeship Council.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL
/Security Council resolution 70 (1949)/ (T/L.1212)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Document T/L.1212 contains Part I of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council, which is entitled "Organization and activities of the Trusteeship Council". Members of the Council will note that Part II of the report contains chapters on "Conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands". In accordance with the decision that has just been taken by the Council, Part II will consist of the working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/L.1208 and Add.1 and 2) and the conclusions and recommendations contained in the annex to the report of the Drafting Committee (T/L.1211). It will be completed by the addition of sections containing opinions expressed by delegations in the general debate.

I understand that members of the Council have already received a draft text containing opinions of delegations, which will be incorporated in the report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council after members have had time to study them and after they have made any necessary corrections on the basis of the records of the Council's meetings.

Does any representative wish to comment on the draft report to the Security Council in document T/L.1212?

Mr. KHARLAMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We received the text only today. This is not a criticism, but it is clear that as a result we have not had time to form our full views on the text for expression now and we should like to reserve the right to submit amendments if we feel that it is necessary to do so.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Do I understand that the representative of the Soviet Union does not wish the draft report to the Security Council as it stands in document T/L.1212 to be put to the vote today, or does he simply wish to say that he reserves the right to check whether the statements he has made are duly recorded in the document?

Mr. KHARLAMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I agree to the document being voted upon today. We shall consider that part of the text which presents the views of our delegation, and if we find any inaccuracy there we shall amend it in the course of our work, as we did last year and in previous years.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): If there are no other comments I shall put the draft report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council, as contained in document T/L.1212, to the vote, subject to each delegation's having the right if necessary to check whether its position has been correctly reflected in the part containing statements made during the general debate.

The draft report was adopted by 3 votes to 1.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I now call on members of the Council wishing to speak in explanation of vote.

Mr. KHARLAMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am taking part in the work of the Trusteeship Council for the first time. I frankly admit that when our work began I was more optimistic than I am now that we are completing it.

The Soviet delegation voted against the report of the Drafting Committee on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council. Our delegation cannot agree with a number of the evaluations, conclusions and recommendations contained in those reports.

Both here and outside the Council various matters have been put forward testifying to a deterioration of conditions in Micronesia. Now, when we are completing our work, there is no need again to explain my country's position with regard to consideration of the items on the agenda of the Trusteeship Council's session. We have already done this. However, we should refer to several important factors.

(Mr. Kharlamov, USSR)

In the report, the statements made by members of the Council and by representatives of the Congress of Micronesia, as well as communications and petitions received, were not adequately reflected. We have grave doubts about section F of document T/L.1211, "Constitutional Developments and Progress Towards Self-Government or Independence". Our delegation does not share the assessment made in the report of the so-called agreed principles of free association of Micronesia with the Administering Authority, the United States. That document predetermines the conclusion of such agreements in the future, which would be bound to be aimed at preserving and strengthening United States domination over the Trust Territory and its further transformation into a strategic bridgehead in the Pacific region. No matter what course is taken in Micronesia, it must be convincingly shown to be fully in accordance with the goals of the Charter of the United Nations on the question of trusteeship.

These actions are violating international peace and security and are in contravention of the basic goals of the Trusteeship System, particularly in regard to the strengthening of international peace and security. In Micronesia the Administering Authority is acting as if nothing had changed in the 30 years or so that have passed since the end of the Second World War in the Pacific region, or as if there were some sort of threat to the security of the United States in the region.

What about the status of free association, which has been dealt with so many times in the documents that we have been reading and hearing about together? What can we say about the status of free association that the Administering Authority wants the Micronesian people to have? That is not the status of an independent country. It is the perpetuation of United States control over Micronesia, control of a sort that the May edition of The African Mirror, a United States publication, described as the creation of an American bantustan. I have here the article devoted to Micronesia. Representatives must have seen it.

(Mr. Kharlamov, USSR)

The report basically approves the unilateral actions of the Administering Authority to fragment and dismember the Islands. That is clearly in contradiction to the vital interests of the people of Micronesia. Of course all the islands could be divided up; that would make the Council's work easier and the association of the islands - first and foremost with the Administering Authority - much easier. That is also in contradiction with the numerous General Assembly and Trusteeship Council decisions and resolutions on the need to retain the integrity of the Islands. Thus the Administering Authority's efforts are geared at introducing a new status for the Islands. The Soviet delegation has repeatedly pointed out the illegal nature of the Administering Authority's actions in the Islands. We repeat that our position remains the same. Nothing in this session's work has convinced us of a need to change our point of view.

Furthermore, we note with regret that the recommendations in the report do not reflect the urgent appeal of the members of the Congress of Micronesia, expressed during the work of this session, for an intensification of Security Council monitoring of the political and socio-economic development of the Trust Territory.

The people of Micronesia, like any other dependent people, have a right to self-determination up to the very creation of their own independent State. The main goal and task remains the creation of the necessary basis to enable the people of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands to exercise that vital right of theirs. The Soviet Union is in favour of the Micronesian people's receiving those rights derived from the United Nations Charter and set forth in the Declaration on decolonization.

Those were, in brief, the comments we wanted to make in connexion with the conclusion of our work and the discussion of the two reports.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): With the adoption of its report to the Security Council, the Trusteeship Council has completed its agenda for this session.

CLOSURE OF THE FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Before closing the session I should like, in my capacity as President, to express my thanks to all members of the Council for their co-operation and the responsible manner in which they have performed their duties, in particular the Drafting Committee which has carried out a task that is very onerous, as I know that from having participated in it myself in the past.

I appreciate the care with which the reports submitted to the Council were considered, the concern of members to express themselves and the great attention they gave to the communications and petitions transmitted to them. I think that work has been fruitful, and I should like to express to all members of the Council my gratitude for their patience and assistance to me in conducting the work of this session.

There is a double tradition in the work of the Council. First, there is a tradition of serious work, which has been fully respected, as can be seen from the substantial verbatim records of our meetings, and the numerous documents that have been issued during recent weeks. There is also the tradition of courtesy and tolerance towards one another, which has once more been demonstrated by the informal and flexible manner in which we have been able to organize our work.

I personally was sorry that we could not conclude our session in a room open to the public in the normal way, but we were able to make it known that visitors would be welcome if they wished to attend the conclusion of the session.

As this session comes to a close the problems of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the efforts made to solve them and the prospects for the future are, in any event, better known to members of the Council and, hence to the United Nations.

I am sure that I speak on behalf of the Council when I express all our gratitude to Mr. Tang, the Under-Secretary-General, for his constant interest in our deliberations. I should also like to express my thanks

(The President)

to the Secretariat members, who under his direction, have done remarkable work within the time-limits we set. Mr. Rifai, who is unfortunately not here - also helped us with his wise counsel.

I cannot fail to extend my personal thanks to Mr. Girma Abebe. I had long been aware of his qualities and competence, and I have now been able to observe them at close hand. I should like to assure him once more of my personal gratitude.

I should like to use this occasion also to transmit to the representatives of the Congress of Micronesia and to the special advisers all our thanks for the valuable aid they gave us; the statements they made contributed greatly to the success and interest of our work.

I should like too to express my deep gratitude to the members of the various services which have helped us in our work, and in particular the Department of Conference Services which did its best, I know, to find us a more suitable room for our final meeting, even if that effort was in vain.

Lastly, I should like to say that it has been a most interesting and satisfying experience for me to have been able to preside over a session during which we have, I believe, moved forward along the path set for us by the Charter.

Once again I should like to thank all the members of the Council.

Mr. COOKS (United States of America): I should like to take this opportunity to express to you, Mr. President, my sincere appreciation for the skill and patience that have characterized your presidency of the forty-fifth session of the Trusteeship Council. It has indeed been an extremely productive session.

I also wish to express the appreciation of my entire delegation - particularly of the Special Representatives and Special Advisers, who have now returned to Micronesia - for the many courtesies and the attentiveness extended by the members of this Council.

Mr. President, it is my understanding that following your return from Micronesia you will be leaving for a new assignment. My delegation wishes you much success.

I should also like to extend special thanks to all the members of the Secretariat whose work and efforts contributed greatly to the success of this session and to Mr. Tang for his interest. The Secretariat staff have demonstrated once again the dedication and expertise for which they are very well known.

(Mr. Cooks, United States)

My special thanks go to the Secretary of the Council, Mr. Abebe, his staff, the interpreters, translators and conference officers who have worked so skilfully on behalf of the peoples of Micronesia.

For me, as for the representative of the Soviet Union, this is a new experience, and I should like to say it has been a pleasurable one.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of the United States for the kind words he has addressed to me.

Mr. KHARLAMOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): Before I make my closing statement, I should like to recall that our delegation's position is that the Trusteeship Council should send its report not only to the Security Council but also to the General Assembly. If members of the Council follow past practice there will be no problem on that score.

(Mr. Kharlamov, USSR)

In conclusion, I wish to say that although we have heard completely conflicting views on several matters, nevertheless we have all worked in a spirit of co-operation and have sought, as far as possible, to achieve agreed formulations. Of course, in many cases that was not possible, but I do not think we need be discouraged or should feel that we have wasted time. The work accomplished at this session of the Trusteeship Council will, I am sure, have a positive, constructive influence on the future of the people of Micronesia and on their vital interests and aspirations.

Mr. President, I wish to thank you for the most skilful way in which you have presided over our work. Indeed, I wish it were possible for you to conduct our work in future, too.

I should like to thank the members of the Council for the spirit of mutual understanding in which they worked on rather complicated issues.

The Secretariat too contributed to the success of our work, and our thanks go to Mr. Abebe and all his colleagues because they must undoubtedly have needed even more patience than the President and the members of the Council. Similarly, I wish to voice my gratitude to the translators and all the other staff members who have assisted us in our work by helping us understand one another better.

I hope that at the next session we will find even greater mutual understanding than at previous sessions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of the Soviet Union for his kind words addressed to me, and I assure him that, wherever I may be in the world, I shall continue to follow the developments in the Territory with keen interest.

Mr. BYATT (United Kingdom): Mr. President, I should like briefly to add a word to those which have been spoken already around the table and to associate my delegation with the thanks which you and others have expressed to the staff of the Secretariat for the assistance which they have given to the Council. I am particularly grateful for the fact that they have managed until our last day, despite the competition from other organs of the United Nations, to find a substantial committee room in which we could conduct our meetings.

I should like to record again my delegation's thanks to the representatives of the Administering Authority for the very detailed information which they have given us, and for the answers to the many questions which they have supplied. I should like, through them, to thank the Special Representatives and Advisers who came from Micronesia to assist the Council in its deliberations, and also to record our gratitude for the information provided by the petitioners from Micronesia. It is not appropriate for me to thank the delegations that worked on the preparation of our draft report, but I should like to thank the individuals who did - the Vice-President and Mr. Brochenin of France - for the hard work which they have done over the past week in producing the report which the Council has adopted today.

I should like to thank my colleagues from the French and Soviet Missions for the co-operation which we have enjoyed throughout this session.

And finally, Mr. President, I should like to pick up a remark which you made a minute ago about the traditions of this Council being a combination of seriousness and of courtesy, and to say that, in my view, you have epitomized those virtues in the conduct of the work of this session. The Council has worked extremely well and effectively under your charge, and we are most grateful to you.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I could not have performed my duties without the help I had from all of you - and in particular the representative of the United Kingdom, for his advice as former President.

Mr. BROCHENIN (France) (interpretation from French): Being the last to speak, I think the other members have already thanked everyone, so I can only associate myself fully with all the thanks extended to the members of the Council and the Secretariat. Perhaps it is a somewhat delicate matter for me to extend my thanks to you, Mr. President, but as a fellow member of the French delegation, I should like to express my satisfaction at seeing you preside.

CLOSURE OF THE FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of France for the kind words addressed to me. There being no further observations or comments, I declare the forty-fifth session of the Trusteeship Council closed.

The meeting rose at 4.55 p.m.

Trusteeship Council
Forty-fifth Session
1481st Meeting (PM)
and Round-up of Session



TR/2136
8 June 1978

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL ADOPTS REPORT ON PACIFIC ISLANDS TRUST TERRITORY,
ENDS FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

The Trusteeship Council concluded its forty-fifth session this afternoon after having accepted the invitation of the United States to observe the referendum on the draft constitution for the Federated States of Micronesia -- the Marshall and the Caroline Islands -- to be held on 12 July.

The session, which began on 15 May, has been mainly devoted to conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (Micronesia), with special attention to its rapidly evolving political status. Micronesia, which is administered by the United States, is the only Territory remaining under the International Trusteeship System.

Having decided on 31 May to send a six-member mission to the Territory to observe the referendum, the Council requested today that in view of the separatist tendencies in the districts of Palau and the Marshall Islands, its observation mission "give particular attention to ensuring that the political campaign and voting operations take place under normal conditions and in a completely free manner".

The Council acted this afternoon by adopting, with some oral amendments, the report of the Drafting Committee it set up on 23 May to prepare conclusions and recommendations on conditions in the Territory on the basis of discussions which had taken place in the Council.

In adopting this report, the Council expressed hope that all measures would be taken to ensure the honesty of next month's vote and the security of the ballot boxes, and that the presence of the observation mission would prevent disputes and lead to broad participation by the voters.

Further, the Council noted with satisfaction the undertaking by the representatives of the Administering Authority to respect the results of the referendum and to co-operate with the Micronesian authorities, before the end of the mandate, in implementing all provisions of the new constitution consistent with the Trusteeship Agreement between the United States and the United Nations.

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The Council further hoped that the Micronesians would take all necessary steps to establish, after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, the all-Micronesian entity which had been agreed upon at Molokai, Hawaii, in October 1977. At Molokai, it had been agreed that the all-Micronesian entity should have the powers that the Micronesian parties agreed to vest in it. The United States had welcomed progress toward agreement on the maintenance of a form of unity.

The report containing conclusions and recommendations (document T/L.1211), which was drafted by France and the United Kingdom, was adopted by the Council today by a vote of 3 in favour (France, United Kingdom, United States) to 1 against (Soviet Union), with no abstentions. The United States explained its vote after the vote.

Each of the first five sections of the report was adopted by a vote of 2 in favour (France, United Kingdom) to none against, with 2 abstentions (Soviet Union, United States). Section F, on constitutional developments, was adopted by a vote of 2 in favour (France, United Kingdom) to 1 against (Soviet Union), with 1 abstention (United States).

Before adopting section F as a whole, the Council adopted paragraph 18 of the section by a vote of 2 in favour (France, United Kingdom) to none against, with 2 abstentions (Soviet Union, United States). The vote was requested by the Soviet Union. In paragraph 18, the Council noted with satisfaction the installation of an elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor of the Northern Marianas and welcomed the former's participation in the work of the session of the Council.

A paragraph approving a Secretariat working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory (document T/L.1208 and Add.1 and 2) was adopted by a vote of 3 in favour (France, United Kingdom, United States) to none against, with 1 abstention (Soviet Union).

Also, a paragraph in the report by which the Council adopted its conclusions and recommendations on the Trust Territory was adopted by a vote of 3 in favour (France, United Kingdom, United States) to none against, with 1 abstention (Soviet Union).

In another action today, the Council adopted the report to the Security Council (document T/L. 1212), of which the Drafting Committee's conclusions and recommendations will form a part, along with the Secretariat's working paper. The vote was 3 in favour (France, United Kingdom, United States), to 1 against (Soviet Union), with no abstentions.

Under the United Nations Charter, the Trusteeship Council reports on Micronesia to the Security Council rather than the General Assembly because the Territory is designated a "strategic area".

In April 1976, the former Mariana Islands District was separated administratively from the Government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The Marianas -- together with the Carolines and Marshalls where next month's referendum is to take place -- make up the whole of the Trust Territory, which embraces more than 2,000 islands and islets in the western Pacific.

According to 1977 estimates, the population of the Trust Territory is 126,239. The population of the Marshalls and the Caroline Islands is 109,975; that of the Northern Mariana Islands is 16,264.

In other action earlier in the session, the Council adopted a resolution containing directives for its regular Visiting Mission which is scheduled to visit the Trust Territory in 1979 to look into conditions in the Territory. It also took note of reports by the Secretary-General concerning offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories, the dissemination of information on the United Nations and the Trusteeship System in the Territory and on credentials of Council members for the 1978 session.

The Trusteeship Council is composed of five members: the United States, as Administering Authority, and China, France, The Soviet Union and the United Kingdom, which are the permanent members of the Security Council that do not administer Trust Territories. However, China does not participate in the Council's work.

The Council meets in annual sessions.

(page 3 follows)

Conclusions and Recommendations on Micronesia

The Trusteeship Council reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Micronesia to self-determination, including the right to independence in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement.

It recalled its previously expressed conviction that the political unity of the Caroline and the Marshall Islands should if possible be maintained, but it recognized that it was ultimately for the Micronesians themselves to decide on their future political relations with each other.

It noted with satisfaction that the Congress of Micronesia had decided in favour of unity within the framework of a constitution of the Federal States of Micronesia. It also noted that the districts of Palau (in the Carolines) and the Marshall Islands had expressed the wish that the question of their political status should be negotiated separately with the United States.

The Council further noted that the Administering Authority considered that it would be in the interests of the Micronesians to maintain some form of unity, but that it was for the Micronesians to decide on the political unity and government structures of the Territory. The Council hoped the Administering Authority would continue its efforts to establish mutually beneficial relations between the districts in all fields and that the Micronesians would co-operate with Administering Authority in that regard.

As in 1977, the Council stated that it did not wish to make precise recommendations on the future political status of the Territory. It reiterated its view that, "among all the options open to the inhabitants, including independence, the status of free association, if endorsed by the population would not be inconsistent with the aims of the Trusteeship Agreement".

The Council noted with interest the "Statement of Principles for Free Association" which was approved on 9 April 1978 at Hilo, Hawaii, by representatives of the United States, the Commission on Future Political Status and Transition of the Congress of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands Political Status Commission and the Palau Political Status Commission.

(It was agreed at Hilo that an agreement of free association with the United States would be concluded on a Government-to-Government basis and would be executed prior to termination of the United Nations Trusteeship; the agreement would be subject to the implementing authority of the United States Congress. The principles adopted at Hilo also stated that an agreement of free association would be put to a United Nations-observed plebiscite and that the United States would have full authority and responsibility for security and defence matters in or relating to Micronesia, including the establishment of military facilities and the exercise of operating rights.)

(more)

In this regard, the Council expressed the hope that it would be possible for the status of free association established on the basis of the Hilo principles to be ended unilaterally.

The Council reiterated its opinion that the Micronesian people should be given the opportunity, before the referendum, to inform themselves about the various political choices open to them, including independence.

The Council welcomed the intention of the Administering Authority to seek agreement with the parties concerned, in strict compliance with the United Nations Charter, on terminating the Trusteeship Agreement by 1981 at the latest.

In addition, the Council noted with satisfaction that on 23 October 1977, the United States had approved the constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and that the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, parliamentary representatives and other authorities elected in December 1977 had taken office on 9 January 1978. It also noted that some parts of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States had taken effect on 9 January 1978 when the constitution had entered into force.

The Council noted with satisfaction that the Administering Authority still intended to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement simultaneously for the Northern Mariana Islands and for the rest of the Territory.

Further, the Council noted with satisfaction that the Administering Authority hoped to maintain social, economic and cultural co-operation between the Northern Mariana Islands and the rest of the Territory. It urged the Administering Authority and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to pursue that objective.

As regards the political advancement of the territorial government, the Council noted with continued concern that the Administering Authority had not acted on the Council's previous recommendation that regulations should be adopted to restrict as far as possible the use of the veto power by the High Commissioner (who is appointed by the United States).

However, the Council said it remained aware that some of the difficulties associated with the use of the veto power resulted from the separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches, and that these difficulties were further exacerbated because the power was exercised by an appointed rather than an elected Chief Executive. The Council noted that the draft constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia provided for an elected Chief Executive, which could help to reduce the use of the veto.

Regarding economic advancement of the Territory, the Council reiterated its concern "over the imbalances in the Micronesian economy and its considerable dependence on outside support". It hoped that the Administering Authority would encourage both local and foreign capital investment.

Further, the Council noted with concern that the implementation of the five-year indicative development plan was behind schedule and that the Administering Authority considered the plan the basis for the Territory's development policy. The Council requested the Administering Authority to do all in its power to achieve the objectives set within the established time-limit.

The Council still considered, it said, that it would be desirable to promote an increase in exports from the Territory. It therefore recommended that the Administering Authority extend to the Territory the tariff advantages accorded to the Northern Mariana Islands under the Covenant to establish a Commonwealth in Political Union with the United States. It urged the Administering Authority to try to secure preferential tariffs for the Territory from other countries.

In addition, the Council reaffirmed its earlier recommendations that the Congress of Micronesia should be allowed to participate to a greater extent in the preparation of the budget, noting that it now played only an advisory role.

Further, the Council considered that lack of capital continued to constitute an important obstacle to the economic advancement of the Territory. It therefore considered it desirable to develop local credit facilities. It noted that a new economic development loan fund had been planned and was under consideration in Washington, D.C.. The Council noted with regret that, four years after the adoption by the Congress of Micronesia of the law establishing a development bank, the bank had not become operational.

The Council recommended that the Administering Authority should expand production of food-stuffs to enable the Territory to become more nearly self-sufficient. However, it added that this priority should be without prejudice to current efforts to diversify crops, develop commercial agriculture and establish an agriculture-based industry. It recommended that the Administering Authority encourage copra production and that particular attention should be paid to the possibilities of exploiting forests.

As for marine resources, the Council reaffirmed that they were crucial to the economy of Micronesia and urged the Administering Authority to do everything possible to protect and develop them, while continuing to improve equipment and training.

Also, in this regard, the Council noted with satisfaction the adoption by the Congress of Micronesia of a law establishing a fisheries management and conservation zone of 200 miles surrounding the Territory and a Micronesian Maritime Authority for the purpose of establishing regulations regarding the exploitation of Micronesian marine resources. The Council noted that the districts of Palau and the Marshall Islands have exercised prerogatives to remove themselves from the jurisdiction of this law, but hoped that those two districts would nevertheless co-operate with the Micronesian Maritime Authority in their efforts.

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With regard to industry, the Council noted with concern that it was almost totally lacking in the Territory and recommended that further efforts be made to establish light industries. While favouring the expansion of the tourist industry, the Council recommended that tourism training and workshops should continue to be expanded, but hoped that care would be taken to safeguard the interests of the population.

On transport and communication, the Council noted with interest that part of the Capital Improvement Programme was designed to provide cargo and passenger service to all islands and atolls with sufficient population or productive service to warrant service. The Council further noted with satisfaction that negotiations on air service between Tokyo and Saipan had been successfully concluded and that Continental Airlines had begun this service on 1 October 1977.

Concerning a proposal for construction of a super-port at Palau, the Council continued to believe that attention should be given to the environmental impact of such a port. It stated that a feasibility study would be a necessary preliminary step and that the approval of the people of Palau would also be necessary.

With regard to social advancement, the Council welcomed the expansion of the health assistance system which had contributed to a significant improvement in the health care delivery system in the outer islands and recommended that the policy of expansion be continued.

In connexion with labour, the Council noted with concern that a lack of skilled Micronesian workers was still a problem and hoped that the Trust Territory Government would continue its efforts to address this problem through its apprenticeship programme.

In its general conclusions, the Council expressed regret "that the earlier statements by the Administering Authority to the effect that Bikini Island was once again fit for habitation have been contradicted by the latest analyses, which have revealed the presence of radio-active elements in crops, that render the latter unfit for consumption". The Council took note of the Administering Authority's position that "normal community life cannot be maintained on Bikini Island".

The Council noted with interest that the United States Congress had before it a request for \$15 million to permit resettlement of the population and that the Administering Authority envisaged the possibility of using other islands of the Rongerik atoll for that purpose. It urged the Administering Authority to ensure that the health of the present inhabitants of Bikini was not otherwise endangered.

Further, the Council took note that the programme for clean-up of Eufwotok was proceeding on schedule and that resettlement and rehabilitation work was being carried out. It noted with satisfaction that all such work would be completed in 1980.

In addition, the Council noted with satisfaction the adoption of a Micronesian law to compensate the inhabitants of the Bikini, Rongelap and Utirik atolls who had been exposed to radiation, as well as to pay compensation to the heirs of those who had died and finance continued medical care.

Regarding war and post-war damage claims; the Council reiterated its concern over the fact that those claims had not been settled as requested by the Micronesian Claims Commission. However, it noted with satisfaction that the United States enacted a law authorizing the United States Government to pay 50 per cent of the balance outstanding under Title I of the Micronesian Claims Act of 1971 (covering claims for damage directly resulting from the hostilities between the United States and Japan between 7 December 1941 and the dates of the securing of the various islands of Micronesia by the United States) and 100 per cent of the balance under Title II (covering post-war claims between the dates of security of the various islands by the United States and 1 July 1951).

The Council welcomed the news that the United States Senate had recently approved \$12 million for payment in full of claims under Title II; it expressed hope that the United States House of Representatives would approve that decision soon.

With regard to claims under Title I, the Council noted with concern that the United States would pay the balance only when the Japanese Government had supplied the Government of the Trust Territory with goods and services whose value was equivalent to its half of the balance outstanding under Title I. It noted that the United States Government did not regard Japan as legally bound to make those payments, but it hoped that the United States Government would pursue its efforts to resolve the problem. The Council requested its President to contact the parties concerned in order to assure that they settled the issue in the best interests of the population.

Explanation of Votes

STONEY COOKS (United States) said that although he had voted in favour of the report on Micronesia his delegation had taken no position on its conclusions or recommendations.

VADIM P. KOVALENKO (Soviet Union) said he had voted against the report because he could not agree with a number of the conclusions and recommendations on the Trust Territory. There had been outside reports on the deteriorating conditions in Micronesia.

The report did not completely reflect the statements made by petitioners and others, he added. Further, he had doubts about section F concerning constitutional developments and progress towards self-government or independence, and did not share the assessments made in the report as a whole. The document prejudged any agreements about the Territory that might be made in the future.

In Micronesia, he went on, the Administering Authority acted as if nothing had changed since the end of World War II. The status of "free association" was a perpetuation of United States control over Micronesia. It made Micronesia an "American bantustan".

The report approved unilateral actions of the Administering Authority to fragment the unity of the islands, he stated. That was in contradiction to General Assembly and Trusteeship Council decisions on the need to maintain the integrity of the Territory.

The Micronesian people had a right to self-determination, he declared; the necessary basis must be created to enable the people to implement that basic right.

Other Actions During Session

During its four-week session, the Council examined the latest annual report of the United States as Administering Authority on conditions in the Pacific Islands Trust Territory, heard oral petitions and also considered written communications addressed to it in connexion with the situation in the Territory.

It decided on 31 May to send a six-member Visiting Mission to the Territory, to observe the 12 July referendum in which the people of the Caroline and Marshall Islands will vote to determine their future political status. This decision was taken with the adoption of a resolution (document T/L.1209) by a vote of 3 in favour (France, United Kingdom, United States) to none against, with 1 abstention (Soviet Union).

In this resolution, the Council decided that the Mission should be composed of three representatives from France and three from the United Kingdom. It directed the Mission to observe all aspects of the voting and to obtain first-hand information on political, economic and social developments in the Caroline and Marshall Islands, which form part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The Council further decided that the Mission should begin on 13 June and end "as soon as practicable after the declaration of results". It requested the Mission to submit to the Council a report on its observations of the referendum, containing conclusions and recommendations.

Also on 31 May, the Council unanimously adopted a resolution containing directives for its regular Visiting Mission which is scheduled to visit the Trust Territory in 1979 -- one of a series of missions which the Council sends periodically to look into over-all conditions in the Territory (document T/L.1210).

Under this resolution, the Council directed the Mission to investigate and report on steps taken in the Territory toward the realization of the objectives set forth in Article 76 (b) of the Charter, which calls for the promotion of political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government. The Council directed the Mission to pay special attention to the question of the future of the Territory, in light of the relevant Articles of the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement.

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After deciding that the Mission should be composed of members of the Council wishing to participate -- except for the Administering Authority, which would provide an escort officer -- and that it would visit the Territory for six weeks, the Council directed the Mission to give attention to issues raised in connexion with the annual reports by the United States on the administration of the Territory, in the petitions received by the Council concerning the Territory in the reports of previous visiting missions and in the observations of the Administering Authority on those reports.

It further directed the Mission to receive petitions and to investigate on the spot those which, in its opinion, warranted special investigation.

Finally, it requested the Mission to submit to the Council as soon as practicable a report on its visit to the Territory containing its findings, with such observations, conclusions and recommendations as it might wish to make.

In addition, the Council took note of communications concerning the Territory (documents T/COM.10/L.208 to L.234). As regards written petitions (documents T/PET.10/122, 123, 124, 126 and 133), the Council decided to draw the attention of petitioners to the written observations of the Administering Authority and to take account of the petitions and observations in preparing its report to the Security Council.

On 30 May, the Council took note of a report by the Secretary-General concerning offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories (document T/1791). The report points out that in the past, 11 Member States had made scholarships available under the programme -- Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Tunisia, USSR, and Yugoslavia. It notes that up-to-date information concerning the scholarships made available under the programme, as well as the extent to which awards had been made to and utilized by students from the Trust Territory, had been requested by the Secretary-General in a note dated 10 April.

The Council further took note of a report by the Secretary-General on the dissemination of information on the United Nations and the Trusteeship System in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (document T/1790). The report points out that the documentation of the 1977 Council session, as well as press releases covering its deliberations, had been sent to newspapers, magazines and radio stations in Micronesia. Further, other United Nations information on such issues as decolonization, disarmament and human rights had been sent to the Office of the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory for use in programmes to further the political education of the Micronesian people.

The Council approved today a message to the Secretary-General in connexion with his invitation to the Council to participate as an observer in the World Conference to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, scheduled for Geneva in August. The Council decided it would have to decline the invitation due to previous commitments connected with its activities in regard to Micronesia.

The Council took note today of a report by the Secretary-General on the credentials of representatives to the 1978 session (document T/1793).

At its first meeting of the session on 15 May, the Council elected Pierre Garrigue-Guyonnaud (France) as President of the Council for 1978 and Miss Sheila E. Harden (United Kingdom) as Vice-President.