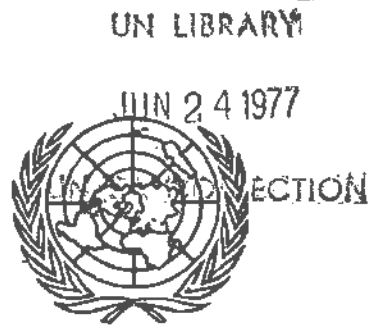


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ENGLISH

Forty-fourth Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 23 June 1977, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. BYATT (United Kingdom)

Report of the Secretary-General on credentials

Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority
for the year ended 30 June 1976: Trust Territory of the Pacific
Islands

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

Closure of the forty-fourth session

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CORRECTIONS WILL BE 29 JUNE 1977.

The co-operation of delegations in strictly observing this time-limit
would be greatly appreciated.

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CREDENTIALS (T/1784)

The PRESIDENT: I should like first to draw the Council's attention to the report of the Secretary-General on credentials in document T/1784. Does any member wish to comment on the report on credentials?

Since there are no comments, I propose that the Council decide to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on credentials.

It was so decided.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1976: TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1781; T/L.1205 and Add.1 and 2)

Additional communications and a petition from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands

The PRESIDENT: Members will recall that at its 1464th meeting, the Council completed consideration of written petitions and communications concerning the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. However, four more communications have been received in the intervening period, and I understand that these have been distributed to members of the Council by the Secretariat. They consist of a communication from the delegation of Micronesia to the United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, received on 10 June 1977, which will be published as document T/COM.10/L.205. Secondly, there was a letter from Mr. Bryant S. Zebedy enclosing a resolution adopted by the Marshall Islands Nitijela concerning land use, which will be published as document T/COM.10/L.206. Thirdly, there was a copy of a letter to Senator Javits of the United States Senate dated 12 June 1977, from Mr. Jackson Ngiraingas of Peleliu, Palau, in which the petitioner requests technical assistance for Peleliu. This will be published as document T/COM.10/L.207. Finally, the Council has received a written petition concerning the proposed super-port in Palau from Mr. Moses Uludong. As members will recall, Mr. Uludong had referred to this petition when he appeared before the Council on 8 June. The petition will be published as document T/PET.10/121. Annexed to the document is a list of some 1,200 signatures, which will be placed in the Secretariat files where they can be examined if any member wishes.

(The President)

If there are no comments on these documents, I suggest that the Council decide to take note of the communications. The communications will eventually appear as documents T/COM.10/L.205 to T/COM.10/L.207, as enumerated above.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: With regard to the written petition from Mr. Moses Uludong, which will appear as document T/PET.10/121, may I suggest that the Council decide to draw the attention of the petitioner to the observations of the Administering Authority. The Council has already taken account of the petition and of the observations in preparing its report.

It was so decided.

United Nations Visiting Mission to observe the referendum in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1978

The PRESIDENT: Turning now to the matter of a visiting mission to observe a referendum in the Pacific Islands next year, members will recall that in his statement at the 1460th meeting of the Council on 6 June the representative of the United States extended an invitation to the Trusteeship Council to despatch a visiting mission to observe the voting in a referendum on the draft Micronesian constitution that is at present scheduled to take place on 12 July 1978.

I have consulted with members of the Council about this invitation with the following result.

The Council notes the invitation of the Administering Authority. It notes also from statements by the Administering Authority, by representatives of the Congress of Micronesia and by petitioners that it is the intention to hold during the coming months further informal discussions, and perhaps also formal negotiations, on constitutional questions and on the future status of Micronesia. The Council also understands that the outcome of these negotiations might affect issues to be decided at the referendum and also perhaps the precise timing of the referendum. The Council welcomes the intention to hold such discussions and negotiations and hopes that they will enable the people of Micronesia to express their opinion at the referendum on a constitutional arrangement that would make possible the preservation of the unity of the Caroline and Marshall Islands.

(The President)

The Council decides in principle to send a visiting mission to observe the referendum in Micronesia on 12 July 1978, or on such other date as may be fixed. The Council authorizes the President to continue consultations with the Administering Authority, with other members of the Council and with the Secretary-General so that, in the light of any developments or agreements in Micronesia during the coming year, the necessary administrative arrangements can be made to prepare for such a visiting mission and to enable the Council to take a formal decision on the despatch of the visiting mission at its forty-fifth session.

If no member wishes to comment on the statement that I have just made, I propose that we take that statement as summarizing the decision of the Council on this matter.

It was so decided.

Report of the Drafting Committee on Conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/L.1206 and Corr.1)

The PRESIDENT: The next item on our agenda is the report of the Drafting Committee on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which has been distributed as document T/L.1206 and Corr.1. I call on the representative of France to introduce that report.

Mr. SCALABRE (France) (interpretation from French): The Drafting Committee, composed of the representatives of the United Kingdom and France, during the three meetings it held over the past few days, has drafted a set of conclusions and recommendations, which we hope will be accepted by the members of the Council. Those conclusions and recommendations are to be found in the annex to the report to the Committee (T/L.1206).

Moreover, the Drafting Committee recommends that the Trusteeship Council adopt the revised working paper relating to the situation in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. (T/L.1205/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.

(Mr. Scalabre, France)

I draw the attention of members of the Council to the corrections made by the Drafting Committee to document T/L.1206 to take into account the observations made by various members of the Council. These corrections are contained in document T/L.1206/Corr.1, which I assume each member has before him.

The first four and the last five corrections are simply stylistic improvements. The fifth correction, however, was introduced in order to take into account the substantive comments made by one delegation. A new paragraph has been introduced in section F, which relates to constitutional developments and progress towards self-government or independence. In that new paragraph,

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

In conclusion, the Drafting Committee recommends to the Trusteeship Council that it adopt the conclusions and recommendations set out in the annex to document T/L.1206 as corrected in document T/L.1206/Corr.1. The Committee recommends that they be included at the end of the Trusteeship Council's report.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to suggest that the Council take up first the draft conclusions and recommendations contained in the annex to the report (T/L.1206 and Corr.1) and that we consider them section by section.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We shall take up first section A, "General", which comprises paragraphs 1 to 6 inclusive.

Members will note from the corrigendum to document T/L.1206 that the third sentence in paragraph 5 is replaced by the following new sentence:

"The Council is gratified to note that the Congress of the United States is considering a bill authorizing full payment of 50 per cent of the Title I awards and full payment of the Title II awards."

As there are no comments, I now put section A to the vote.

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

The PRESIDENT: We turn next to section B, "Political Advancement", which comprises paragraphs 7 to 16 inclusive.

As no member wishes to comment on section B, I now put it to the vote.

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

The PRESIDENT: Section C, "Economic Advancement", consists of paragraphs 17 to 44 inclusive. Members will note from document T/L.1206/Corr.1 that the first sentence of paragraph 22 should now read:

"The Trusteeship Council again expresses the hope that the Trust Territory will continue to develop its contacts with, and involvement in, international and regional bodies for developmental assistance."

Furthermore, in the ninth line of paragraph 29 the word "sovereignty" has been replaced by the word "jurisdiction".

As there are no comments on section C, I now put it to the vote.

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

The PRESIDENT: We turn now to section D, "Social Advancement", which comprises paragraphs 45 to 49 inclusive. As there are no comments, I shall put section D to the vote.

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

The PRESIDENT: Section E, "Educational Advancement" comprises paragraphs 50 to 52 inclusive. As no member wishes to comment, I shall put section E to the vote.

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

The PRESIDENT: Concerning section F, in document T/1206/Corr.1 the Drafting Committee has recommended deletion of the sub-title "General". At the beginning of the section a new paragraph has been inserted, reading as follows:

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

In the first line of paragraph 56, the word "also" has been deleted, and the paragraph has been placed immediately following the new paragraph I have just read out, at the beginning of section F.

At the end of the present paragraph 57 the words "including independence" have been added.

Does any member wish to comment on section F, "Constitutional Developments and Progress Towards Self-Government and Independence", in paragraphs 53 to 64, incorporating the corrections I have just read out?

Mr. KOVALENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I have an observation to make -- a small one, but nevertheless for us this is a significant matter of principle. Paragraph 55 says that the Council reaffirms

"its earlier view that the status of free association, if endorsed by the population, would not be inconsistent with the aims of the Trusteeship Agreement."

(Mr. Kovalenko, USSR)

I do not recall the Council's having taken any such decision earlier. We adopted the Visiting Mission's recommendation in which it was noted that the Visiting Mission recommended or noted that the status of free association would not be inconsistent with the aims of the Trusteeship Agreement. Could the members of the Trusteeship Council not agree to return to the earlier wording?

The PRESIDENT: The Secretary of the Council has drawn my attention to the fact that this matter was covered in paragraph 526 of the Council's report to the Security Council of last year. The first sentence of that paragraph reads,

"Like the 1976 Visiting Mission, the Council does not wish to make precise recommendations on the future status best suited to the Caroline Islands and the Marshall Islands, or to commit itself on the question of free association." (S/12214, para. 526)

The next sentence reads,

"It simply notes that the status of free association at present under consideration, if endorsed by the population, would not be inconsistent with the aims of the Trusteeship Agreement." (Ibid.)

Does any member of the Council wish to comment on this point?

Mr. KOVALENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In that case, could the Council not return to the wording used last year and repeat in full paragraph 526 of last year's report? That could provide a way out.

The PRESIDENT: As I understand it, the proposal of the representative of the Soviet Union is that paragraph 526 of last year's report should replace the first sentence of paragraph 55. I believe the point on which he had some reservations was the reaffirmation of the Council's earlier view on the status of free association. He has pointed out that in the equivalent passage in last year's report the Council simply noted "that the status of free association ..." and so on.

(The President)

I should like, as President, to make a small suggestion. Since we noted the view of the 1976 Visiting Mission last year, I wonder whether it would not meet the wish of the representative of the Soviet Union if, rather than yet again noting the view of the 1976 Visiting Mission, we simply changed the words in the first sentence of paragraph 55 "reaffirms its earlier view" to read, "notes again that ...". Last year we said it "simply notes that the status of free association ..." and so forth. Perhaps this year we might say, "it notes again that the status of free association ...", deleting the words "reaffirms its earlier view". That would be a smaller change, from the point of view of preparing documentation. Would that meet the wish of the representative of the Soviet Union?

Mr. KOVALENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Indeed that is consistent with what I wish. To get out of these difficulties and partially to agree with what has been proposed, I suggest that the Trusteeship Council should again note the recommendation of the Visiting Mission to the effect that free association, if endorsed by the population, would not be inconsistent with the aims of the Trusteeship Agreement, or with wording approximately along those lines. I am ready to co-operate and assist in working out an acceptable text.

The PRESIDENT: The text would now read:

"While the Council has not wished to make precise recommendations at this stage on the future political status of the Trust Territory before the people of the Caroline and Marshall Islands have expressed their opinion, it again notes the recommendation of the 1976 Visiting Mission that the status of free association ...".

Would that formulation be acceptable to members of the Council?

Mr. KRIENDLER (United States of America): I should like to make a point of clarification. As I understand the formulation proposed by the representative of the Soviet Union, it notes again the recommendation of the Visiting Mission. As you pointed out just a few moments ago, Mr. President, in paragraph 526 of last year's report, it is the Council itself which noted that the status of free association at present under consideration, if endorsed by the population, would not be inconsistent with the aims of the Trusteeship Agreement. Do I understand, then, that the representative of the Soviet Union is proposing a different formulation from that which was used last year?

The PRESIDENT: As I understand it, the representative of the Soviet Union would be happy either with the formulation which we have just worked out or, alternatively, with the text of paragraph 526 of last year's report, which was his original proposal. If members of the Council would prefer to repeat precisely paragraph 526 of last year's report in place of the first sentence of paragraph 55 of the annex, we could adopt that text.

Mr. HARDEN (United Kingdom): I feel that the original suggestion is perhaps the better one, that we should use the exact wording of last year.

The PRESIDENT: As I understand it, the representative of the Soviet Union would be content with the exact text of paragraph 526 of last year's report to replace the first sentence of paragraph 55 before us.

If no delegation has any objection, we could adopt that change. The Secretary of the Council informs me that it would not be necessary to have a separate vote on this change, and we could take this oral correction with the existing corrections in document T/L.1206/Corr.1 and vote on section F entitled "Constitutional Developments and Progress Towards Self-Government or Independence", as corrected by document T/L.1206/Corr.1 and with the additional correction to which we have just agreed, namely, that the first sentence of paragraph 55 of the annex would be deleted and replaced by the two sentences which formed paragraph 526 of last year's report.

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(The President)

As there are no further comments, I shall put section F of the report, corrected as I have explained, to the vote.

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

Mr. KRIENDLER (United States of America): I simply want to point out that, as is customary, the Administering Authority has abstained from voting on the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Trusteeship Council, inasmuch as they were addressed to the Administering Authority. I wish to assure the Council, however, that, as in past years, the United States will study these conclusions and recommendations with great care and will give them full consideration.

The PRESIDENT: The Council will now turn to paragraph 4 of the report of the Drafting Committee (T/L.1206).

In that paragraph, the Committee recommends to the Trusteeship Council that it adopt the revised working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, in documents T/L.1205 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. I shall now put that proposal to the vote.

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

The PRESIDENT: Paragraph 5 of the Committee's report recommends that the Trusteeship Council adopt the conclusions and recommendations set out in the annex to the report, and also recommends that they be included at the end of the Council's report to the Security Council. We have already voted separately on each of the sections contained in the annex to the report. I now put the recommendation in paragraph 5 of the Drafting Committee's report to the vote.

Paragraph 5 of the draft report was adopted by 2 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now put to the vote the report of the Drafting Committee as a whole.

The report of the Drafting Committee as a whole was adopted by 2 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL /Security Council resolution 70 (1949)/ (T/L.1207)

The PRESIDENT: Document T/L.1207 contains Part One 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 Two of the report will contain chapters on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. In accordance with the decision just taken by the Council, Part Two will consist of the working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/L.1205 and Add.1 and 2) and the conclusions and recommendations contained in the annex to the report of the Drafting Committee (T/L.1206 and Corr.1). It will be completed by the addition of sections containing opinions expressed by delegations. I understand that the members of the Council have already received a draft text containing the opinions of delegations which, 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, will be incorporated in the report.

On a point of clarification, the Council's Secretary explains to me that alterations to this summary of the observations by members of the Council can be made through the Council Secretary after we have voted on the text or at a later date - but, he says, as soon as possible, please.

If no representative wishes to comment on the draft report to the Security Council in document T/L.1207, I shall now put that draft report to the vote.

The draft report was adopted by 3 votes to 1, with no abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on any member of the Council wishing to speak in explanation of vote.

Mr. KRIENDLER (United States of America): Although my delegation voted in favour of the report in its entirety, I wish to reiterate for the record that my delegation has taken no position on the recommendations or conclusions of the report.

Mr. KOVALENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation voted against the report of the Drafting Committee on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the Trusteeship Council's report to the Security Council, as is reflected in the record. We did so because we do not agree with the conclusions and recommendations relating to the situation in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

In the view of the Soviet delegation, the provisions of this year's report go even further than those of the preceding report, which the Soviet delegation criticized at the last session of the Trusteeship Council. I refer to the actions of the Administering Authority and to the conclusions and recommendations.

(Mr. Kovalenko, USSR)

We are also concerned at the refusal of the Trusteeship Council to co-operate with the General Assembly and the Committee of 24, and at the fact that the report does not sufficiently reflect the views of the Congress of Micronesia. Perhaps those views will be taken more fully into account in the sections that will be submitted by the Secretariat -- in which case our objections would, of course, be eliminated.

We are concerned over section F of the annex to the report of the Drafting Committee, "Constitutional developments and progress towards self-government or independence". The report does not note that the development of the Territory towards self-government or independence is going at a rather slow pace. It is an unsatisfactory situation with regard to the political development of the Territory that, at a time when Micronesia is at a crucial stage in its development, the following should be happening: the separation of the Marianas from the Territory as a whole, the lack of plans for developing the Trust Territory, the separatist tendencies in Palau and the Marshalls and the question of separate negotiations with the Administering Authority about the separate status of those islands, and the lack of real progress on the part of the Administering Authority in handing over authority to the people of Micronesia.

As we see it, the Administering Authority is still standing in the way of the power and the authority of the Congress of Micronesia. We cannot be satisfied with the measures taken by the Administering Authority to place Micronesians in responsible posts in the administration of the Territory. The Administering Authority, in keeping with its obligations, should in practice and not merely in words promote the progress of development in various areas and help to move the Territory towards self-government or independence.

The Soviet delegation has frequently stated that the measures taken by the Administering Authority to split up the Territory, and then to swallow it up, are contrary to the Charter, the Trusteeship Agreement and the Declaration on decolonization.

We regret that some members of the Trusteeship Council are in effect not co-operating with the General Assembly.

(Mr. Kovalenko, USSR)

The people of Micronesia have an inalienable right to self-determination up to the declaration of their independence as an independent State. The task is to ensure that the necessary conditions exist to enable the people of Micronesia to exercise that right. The USSR supports the people of the Trust Territory who are calling for an end to the Trusteeship System and the solution of crucial problems. We have frequently stated that a final decision on this question of the future political status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands can be decided only by the Security Council, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations.

The PRESIDENT: The adoption of the report to the Security Council completes the agenda of the Trusteeship Council for its forty-fourth session.

CLOSURE OF THE FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

The PRESIDENT: Before we adjourn, I should like to make some very brief comments.

First of all, I should like to thank the members of the Council for the co-operation they have shown in agreeing to a very flexible time-table to suit the requirements of documentation and the convenience of individual speakers and petitioners. Not least I should like to thank all representatives for the indulgence they have shown and the help they have given to me as President of the Council.

Those of us who were not involved in the work of the Drafting Committee would, I am sure, wish to thank its members for the work they did on our behalf during the past week.

Next, I am sure that I can speak for the whole Council in expressing our thanks to the Secretariat staff, under Mr. Tang's command, for the excellent service that they have provided to the Council during this session. Not least I should like to mention the translators who have produced the draft report for us in very good time; and I should like in particular to mention Mr. Lecomte du Nouy, who has assisted the Council for many years and who is, I understand, now attending his last session of the Council.

(The President)

Our thanks are of course particularly due to the Secretary of the Council, Mr. Abebe; and I should like to add my personal thanks to him for the great assistance which he has given to me as a newcomer to the Council in discharging my task as President.

In concluding, I should like to express the hope that the affairs of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands -- the one Territory for which the Council still has responsibility -- will prosper in the interval until our next session.

Mr. KRIENDLER (United States of America): I wanted to pay a tribute to the wise, skilful and patient leadership that you, Mr. President, have exercised and which has contributed so importantly to making this session a productive one; and I should also like to express the appreciation of my delegation -- particularly of the Special Representatives and the Special Advisers who have now returned to Micronesia -- for the many courtesies that members of the Council extended to them.

I had intended in addition to express appreciation for the unsung heroes of the Secretariat whose contribution has been so important to us, but I see they are no longer "unsung". However, our appreciation is in no way diminished; they bring exemplary dedication and extraordinary expertise to bear in the accomplishment of their task.

Our thanks go also to the interpreters, the translators and the conference officers who have worked so skilfully on our behalf.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United States for the very kind words he has addressed to me.

Miss HARDEN (United Kingdom): I should like to associate myself with the previous speaker in congratulating you, Mr. President, on the skilful manner in which you have guided our deliberations. My delegation also wishes to congratulate our Vice-President, Mr. Duque, who is unfortunately not with us. I understand that he is the youngest Vice-President to have been elected to serve on our Council, so I hope the office he has just held will prove to be the first step in a dazzling future career.

My delegation wishes to express its thanks to the delegation of the Administering Authority for the open and helpful manner in which its members have provided us with information and for their patience in answering all our questions. We also ask them to convey our thanks and good wishes to the Micronesian representatives who are no longer with us. We were happy to meet them, we listened with interest to all they had to tell us, and we wish them and the people of Micronesia generally a peaceful, happy and prosperous future.

My delegation joins with others in thanking all those members of the Secretariat who have supported us so ably and uncomplainingly at every stage of our work: our distinguished Under-Secretary-General Mr. Tang; our admirable Secretary and mentor, Mr. Abebe; the ever-helpful Mrs. Costa and Miss Mallinson; and all those other members of the Secretariat who have contributed to the smooth running of this session.

Finally, my delegation would like to conclude by paying a special tribute to Mr. Philippe Lecomte du Nouy who, alas, will have retired before our next session, after, I believe, over 30 years of devoted service to the United Nations. He will be sadly missed by my delegation, not only for his wisdom and experience, but also for his ready wit and his imperturbable good humour.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the United Kingdom for her very kind words addressed to me.

Mr. SCALABRE (France)(interpretation from French): The French delegation would like, first of all, to congratulate you, Mr. President, for your enlightened leadership and capable guidance, thanks to which we have completed our work.

My delegation would also like to thank the delegation of the United States of America, the administering Power, for its excellent co-operation; included, naturally, in these thanks are the representatives of Micronesia.

Finally, our delegation would like to thank the members of the Secretariat: Under-Secretary-General Mr. Tang; Mr. Abebe, the pillar of this Council, who is always perfectly loyal and devoted; and all other members of the Secretariat, in particular, our interpreters and translators.

I take this opportunity to express our best wishes to Mr. Lecomte du Nouy as he prepares to leave us.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of France for the kind words he has addressed to me.

Mr. KOVALENKO (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Mr. President, there is very little that I can add to those words of praise addressed by the other members of the Trusteeship Council both to you and to the Vice-President of the Council, as well as to our co-workers in the Department of Political Affairs, Trusteeship and Decolonization who have, indeed, done a great deal of work and contributed to the successful completion of our difficult task. I should like furthermore to note your patience in view of the fact that the opinions of members of the Council have not always coincided and that you have had patiently to listen through statements of contradictory points of view, a fact which has made your work and that of the members of the department on decolonization all the harder.

I should also like to add my voice to those who expressed gratitude to the Secretariat members who have serviced our meetings, some of whom we see here and some of whom we often do not see at all -- particularly to those whom we hear, namely, the interpreters --- to the translators and to those who prepare the documents for us and who try to facilitate our work by making those various documents available to us.

I should also like to thank the members of the Trusteeship Council for the patience that they have shown with regard to the statements repeatedly made by me and by my colleagues.

The PRESIDENT: I thank the representative of the Soviet Union for his kind words addressed to me.

On behalf of the Secretariat staff of the Council -- if it is appropriate for me to do so -- I should like to thank members of the Council for the -- in my view -- extremely well deserved tributes which all of you have paid to them.

This concludes our meeting today, and I now declare the forty-fourth session of the Trusteeship Council closed.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.