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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FIFTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 18 May 1989, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. BIRCH (United Kingdom)

- Dissemination of information on the United Nations and the international trusteeship system in Trust Territories; report of the Secretary-General (Trusteeship Council resolution 36 (III) and General Assembly resolution 754 (VIII)) (T/1936) (continued)
- Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year ended 30 September 1988: Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/1934) (continued)
- Organization of work

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTERNATIONAL TRUSTEESHIP SYSTEM IN TRUST TERRITORIES; REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (Trusteeship Council resolution 36 (III) and General Assembly resolution 754 (VIII)) (T/1936) (continued)

The PRESIDENT: Members of the Council will recall that in informal consultations yesterday we had decided to continue consideration of agenda item 8 as the first item on our agenda this morning. We have with us Mr. Joe Sills, representative of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, who yesterday introduced the relevant report of the Secretary-General (T/1936).

Does any member of the Council wish to comment on the report of the Secretary-General?

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We have read the Secretary-General's report on dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. With regard to that report, we have a number of questions that we believe could be answered by the representative of the Department of Public Information (DPI).

Before moving to any specific questions about the substance of the report, however, we would like to ask DPI and the Trusteeship Council secretariat a question that we also raised at the Council's last session. At that session the Soviet delegation made a proposal that was, we believe, greeted with some sympathy, and it is our understanding that that proposal should have been developed in some way. I am referring to the Soviet delegation's suggestion that a procedure should be followed with regard to the dissemination of information in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands whereby materials sent to the Territory would be available in DPI or in the secretariat of the Trusteeship Council in some kind of control file, so that Council members could, when considering questions regarding the

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dissemination of information, read the materials that had been circulated in the Trust Territory in the course of the year.

Today we would like to ask if such a control file is available in DPI or whether the Council's secretariat has that kind of file? Its location is not important, but its existence would be, for then we could see for ourselves exactly what such materials consist of. A mere list of the materials does not really give us a clear picture of the things that were actually sent to the Territory.

The PRESIDENT: I invite the representative of the Department of Public Information to respond to the question.

Mr. SILLS (Department of Public Information): In reviewing the records of the last session I noted the request for the file made by the delegation of the Soviet Union. We have assembled those materials within the Department of Public Information and have sent them primarily from the Tokyo Information Centre. Many of them, as can be seen in the annex to the Secretary-General's report, are fairly standard materials that are distributed quite widely within the United Nations through all the information centres, and we certainly keep a record of what we have distributed. As I said yesterday, regrettably I did not have the numbers of what had been distributed, and I hope to get the numbers. However, they have not yet made available to me by our Tokyo office.

We distribute items throughout the world through many information centres, through many ministries, through many education departments, and to set up a separate file and put one of the items in each file for each place we distribute it would be an administratively cumbersome thing. We would have hundreds of files, and each one of those files would have one copy of the report of the Secretary-General, and so on. So we have assembled this list, and we would, of course, be more than happy, if any member wishes to see physical examples of such products, to make them available.

(Mr. Sills)

As we indicated last year, we are in the process of computerizing this distribution information, and that would seem to be a more reasonable way to do it than to have a separate physical file for every place to which we distribute items. If, however, a member wishes to have a collection of the actual items so as to be able to examine them, we would be happy to make that available.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In the light of what we have just heard from the representative of the Department of Public Information, there does seem to be good reason for the course of action that has been followed. Naturally, drawing up a file for each DPI distribution point would be pointless. The fact is, moreover, that there has to be some demand for the compilation of files for each United Nations distribution point, in particular on such a specialized question, but so far as I know DPI has not received such a request.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

That was just one request that was received. It was not a capricious request; it was not a whim. The request was made to facilitate the work of a United Nations body - a Charter body, a very important body that deals with questions relating to the future of the people of Micronesia.

We are not talking about scores or hundreds of files, but just one file. I think that the Department of Public Information (DPI) could react expeditiously to that kind of request. Great hopes were expressed at the last session of the Trusteeship Council that DPI would prepare a file for this session. We regret that the collection to which we have referred is not now available to the Council. I think that closer attention should be paid to these kinds of requests.

I hope that the representative of DPI can clear up another point.

Paragraph 2 of the report states that

"The Department of Public Information of the Secretariat distributed information material both directly to the Trust Territory and through its information centres" (T/1936, para. 2) -

I think that only one information centre is involved here, the one in Tokyo; the word "centres" should be in the singular.

But that is not the point. The point is this: Paragraph 3 of the report states that

"Documents of the Trusteeship Council were airmailed ... to 33 recipients in the Trust Territory". (T/1936, para. 3)

We do not know what addresses were used by DPI in sending out these documents. Who were these "33 recipients" referred to here? We do not know whether they were the ones on the list, or perhaps certain other addressees. The report also states that

"taped radio and video programmes were regularly distributed by the Department of Public of Information. The mailing lists ... included government offices,

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radio stations, newspapers, educational institutions, libraries and individuals". (T/1936, para. 3)

I should like to see the list of addresses in order to determine exactly who the recipients of this United Nations material were. So my second question is: could we get the mailing lists, so that we might know who the recipients were?

My next question relates to paragraph 6 of the report. It states that the Radio Service of DPI has regularly distributed weekly taped programmes. In reading this paragraph carefully from the point of view of the geography of distribution, we found that distribution of the taped programmes was limited to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau. But what about the Northern Marianas? Is this kind of information not sent to the Northern Marianas? Or is this merely an unfortunate omission in regard to the distribution of radio programmes concerning the work of the United Nations?

The PRESIDENT: I shall ask the representative of the Department of Public Information to respond to those comments.

Mr. SILLS (Department of Public Information): I would respond first to the comment about the file. We shall certainly make it available. I should like, however, to say this to Mr. Berezovsky: We have pointed out that, in addition to the printed materials, some 70 UN in Action weekly news programmes have been distributed in the area. Radio programmes have been distributed. Film cassettes have been distributed. Does Mr. Berezovsky wish one copy of each of these materials to be available in the file that we give to the Trusteeship Council?

I turn now to the distribution pattern, and in the first place the matter of the 33 recipients referred to in paragraph 3 of the report. The documents in question there were distributed by the Secretariat of the Trusteeship Council. The memorandum from the Secretariat that we used in drawing up this report indicated that these documents were dispatched by air to 33 recipients in the Trust

(Mr. Sills)

Territory. It gave details on the items that were distributed, but did not give the actual mailing list. Hence, I do not have that information; I would have to refer the question to the Secretariat of the Council.

In regard to the mailings from DPI to the area, I would say this: First, I take Mr. Berezovsky's point about the word "centres" in the plural. Certainly, this material is sent primarily from the Tokyo Centre. However, one or two inquiries may have been received in other centres, and they may have been answered by those centres. That could be the reason for the plural.

We have a mailing list, comprised of schools, radio stations, government offices, journalists and the like, for the Trust Territory, and the Tokyo Centre has indicated to me that there are 95 names on it. That is the regular mailing list. This would not include a one-time request by someone. I shall be happy to make that list available.

In regard to the distribution of radio programmes, I referred yesterday to the visit made to the area last January by Mr. Ignatieff, who at that time was Director of the Tokyo Information Centre. I believe he visited the entire Territory. One of the major elements of his visit was to meet with radio stations and offer them our materials, and to ascertain if they would carry the materials on the air. The coverage we have is the result of some of those stations indicating that they were willing and able to do that.

As I pointed out yesterday, we feel that the major areas for expansion in the Trust Territory relate to radio and audio-visual materials, and also working with the schools and the libraries. Those are the areas we shall be focusing on during the coming year. I would hope that all these outlets can be broadly expanded in the Territory.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I would like to thank the representative of the Department of Public Information (DPI) for the answers he has given us and, through him, DPI for the tremendous work it does, including its work in disseminating information in Micronesia. I do not want to give the impression that we are trying to criticize DPI. Far from it. Rather, we simply want to clarify exactly what the enormous work done by DPI consists of, so as to be clear in our own minds and to help the Department in its future work.

As to the question that my delegation was asked, whether the file should include both video and audio material, I think that DPI in one way or another does have an archive of all the material it sends out and in case of necessity we could listen to it as it appears on the list. I do not think that to do so would pose any major problems. But this is printed material, and since, as we know, the flow of printed material is enormous, I think it would be a good idea to have a separate file set aside for the work of the Trusteeship Council.

On another matter, we would naturally be grateful to DPI for additional information that might be made available to us regarding the question of the mailing list for the material. I think that the list of 33 addresses to which this information is circulated is also directly available to the Secretary of the Council, and that it would be a good idea to familiarize ourselves with the names on it.

Perhaps I was not being attentive enough, but I did not get an answer to my question about dissemination of information in the Northern Mariana Islands. My question, however, related to paragraph 6 of document T/1936, concerning the geographical spread of the radio programmes in the Trust Territory, and I do not

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see any mention here of addresses in the Northern Marianas. Perhaps I missed what the DPI representative said, but I would like to have the question answered.

I would like to put another question to both the representative of DPI and the Secretariat of the Trusteeship Council. I do not know how to be more specific, but I will endeavour to do so. Is there some kind of feedback from the Trust Territory to DPI and the Secretariat of the Trusteeship Council in this area of dissemination of information? To what extent is this feedback active?

I want to explain matters, so that everybody is clear about what I am driving at. The fact is that for at least two years, if not more, regarding the lists of material disseminated in the Trust Territory there are some basic documents that we do not see that relate to the process of decolonization, such as the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and other decisions taken by the United Nations on questions of decolonization.

Hence, it can be seen that information of this kind is not being sent out and we do not know why. Is it just because DPI believes that there is no need to send this information to the Trust Territory? We do not know whether DPI has information to the effect that such material is not necessary to the Trust Territory, or perhaps the Department does not have information to this effect. And we do not know whether it considers matters in this way because it is in possession of information; perhaps it does not have such information. But we would like to know whether there is any feedback, in the form of requests to the United Nations from the Trust Territories for certain specific materials; whether they do not get any such requests, and how the United Nations reacts to such requests if they are received. That is, is there, apart from the link between the United Nations and the Trust Territory whereby the United Nations sends out materials it considers necessary, also a feedback link from the Trust Territory to the United Nations?

Mr. SILLS (Department of Public Information): Perhaps I was not clear enough in my comment regarding the radio programmes in the area. We distribute radio programmes on a regular basis to stations that have indicated that they will use them, because making the cassettes and distributing them is an expensive proposition. As I mentioned, when the former director of the Tokyo centre, Mr. Ignatieff, was in the Territory last January he visited all areas to see what we could do to build up the use made of the radio programmes. I understand that the stations that carried the radio programmes were all the ones that requested and wanted them.

(Mr. Sills)

I would have to check back into his mission report and see if there was any specific reference to the Northern Marianas or if he attempted to get the programmes placed there and was unable to do so. I simply do not know that kind of detail, but I shall certainly look into that question.

Regarding the second question, about feedback, I must say that one of the areas we are least pleased with in our distribution process in the Department of Public Information is the evaluation of materials. It is very hard to get systematic evaluation of the effectiveness of materials, to identify target audiences and to see if the materials are useful. I do not have an answer to this at present. We have feedback in the sense of anecdotal feedback. We get letters from individuals who say, "We heard your programme or saw your publication; I liked it; I did not like it; it was good; it was lousy", or something like that. But in terms of systematic evaluation - looking at the schools, for example, and checking among the students to see if the materials we made available were useful - we certainly do not have that kind of mechanism yet in any sophisticated form, particularly in areas like the Trust Territory.

Certainly, we get requests for specific material. The list I mentioned is a regular mailing list. We have many requests from individuals who write to the United Nations and to the Department. We have a unit that fulfils those requests. If someone sends for a copy of a particular piece of information or material about the United Nations, we send that material out. Obviously, it would be a massive job to tabulate all those individual requests. The list I referred to is a continuous mailing list.

In terms of the materials and their value, the list annexed to the report does not, for instance, include the Charter of the United Nations. That does not mean we think the Charter is not an important document. Most of the things on the list

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were newly issued during the year - the new products that were sent out. We have indeed sent a very large supply of products such as the Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the documents on decolonization to which the representative of the Soviet Union referred. We think they are extremely important, and they have been supplied to the area. Also, they are supplied on a recurrent basis as they are needed and when there is an indication that the supply is running low.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Once again, I thank the representative of the Department of Public Information for the important additional information he has given us today. I hope we have had a fruitful exchange of views on matters which had been unclear.

With respect to the important basic documents of the United Nations which the Department supplies on a recurrent basis to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, I think the reports of the Trusteeship Council should list them, to show that those important documents are indeed being sent to the Territory by the Department of Public Information. That is a very important point, yet sometimes the report does not reflect some quite obvious facts. The report could only be improved by a reference to the fact that such documents as the Declaration on decolonization, the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and others had been sent to the Territory during the period under review; including that reference would have obviated the need for supplementary questions.

I repeat my thanks to the representative of the Department of Public Information and, through him, to all the United Nations staff who deal with disseminating information. I wish them success, and my delegation assures them that we are always ready to offer our support and co-operation in their important work.

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom): I have two questions which, in the interests of swift dispatch of our work, I shall ask at the same time.

The first concerns the radio programmes which the representative of the Soviet Union has been discussing at some length. I understood from the representative of the Department of Public Information that the radio stations currently receiving radio programmes are those which have asked for the programmes and which have indicated they will use them. I should like to know whether the Department has any information as to whether those programmes are actually used, or whether they are sent but not used.

My second question concerns paragraph 7 of the report, which refers to the video programme UN in Action. In the report we are told that four copies are sent to the Trust Territory. It would be helpful to have more information as to who the recipients of those four copies are, and in particular whether they go to television stations in the Trust Territory for possible broadcast.

The PRESIDENT: I call on the representative of the Department of Public Information.

Mr. SILLS (Department of Public Information): Regarding the first point, when Mr. Ignatieff visited the Tokyo Information Centre, and on the occasion of the follow-through exercise, we asked for reports as to whether the radio programmes were actually being broadcast. We have been informed that the programmes referred to in paragraph 6 (T/1936) are being used. We do not have someone in the area to monitor each week and make sure that that is correct; but in so far as we are being informed, they are being broadcast.

I should say that it is not just that we sit back and wait to be asked. We approach radio stations and see if they will agree to use the programmes. So it is a combination of being asked and of our initiating the process - and Mr. Ignatieff did a great deal of that when he was in the Territory and we continue to do it by airmail communications.

Regarding the UN in Action programme, as I have mentioned, this is the three-minute summary of the week at the United Nations. It is indeed being sent to television stations. They are the intended recipients; we have asked and suggested that they work those into their own newscasts. I do not have the list of which stations actually receive them, but I shall be happy to make it available.

The PRESIDENT: Since there are no further questions, I take it that the Council has now concluded consideration of the report of the Secretary-General on dissemination of information on the United Nations. On behalf of the members of the Council, I should like to thank Mr. Sills for providing us with information on the report yesterday and answering our questions and comments today.

If there are no further comments, I suggest that the Council decide to take note of the Secretary-General's report contained in document T/1936.

It was so decided.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 1988: TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS (T/1934) (continued)

The PRESIDENT: As agreed yesterday, we shall now proceed with the questioning of the representatives of the Administering Authority.

Mr. GAUSSOT (France) (interpretation from French): During the visit my British colleague Stephen Smith and I made to Palau last month, a subject came up quite often with the people with whom we spoke. It is the problem of illegal fishing in the territorial waters or the economic zone of Palau.

Indeed, when we visited the prison, we learned that it was occupied by a number of foreign fishermen who had been arrested for engaging in illegal activities in Palauan waters. This is an issue that was also mentioned by a number of petitioners. It do not think it is dealt with in the Administering Authority's report, which otherwise seems to me to be quite extensive and to make abundant reference to the other aspects of the situation in Palau.

I should like to ask the representatives of the Administering Authority what it sees as a possible solution of this particularly difficult problem. Does the Administering Authority believe that, in particular, it would be possible - as it appears the Palauan authorities would wish it to do - to raise the matter with the authorities of the countries from which the poachers come? I am aware that this is a particularly delicate problem and that there is no obvious solution, but it would be interesting to know the views of the Administering Authority on the matter.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): The question of the representative of France indeed refers to a vexing problem. I should like first to comment on behalf of the Administering Authority and then perhaps you would be good enough, Mr. President, to call on Mr. Uherbelau for more detailed views from the Government of Palau.

(Miss Byrne, United States)

The United States supports the efforts of the Government of Palau to manage and conserve its marine resources. Within the past few years Palau has established a legal régime for this purpose and fishing by foreign vessels in its waters is now governed by private and public bilateral and multilateral agreements. Palau has also notified the United States of its intention to become a signatory to the Convention on the Law of the Sea once the Compact of Free Association has entered into force.

In accordance with its responsibilities and obligations as Administering Authority under the Trusteeship Agreement the United States will continue to support Palau in the exercise of its constitutional authority to manage and conserve its marine resources.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Special Adviser): I thank the French delegation for the question. Before answering it, I should like to thank Mr. Gaussot and his colleague Mr. Stephen Smith for their very comprehensive report of the recent Visiting Mission to Palau. This particular problem is covered in chapter IV, section B of the report.

We do have legislation on a 200-mile exclusive economic zone under which we negotiate agreements on access to fisheries with foreign countries or foreign private enterprise. Over the years we have had some poachers, specifically from Taiwan and more recently from Indonesia. As a matter of fact, we have captured two vessels from Indonesia carrying some 60 fishermen, who were gaoled after procedural hearings in the courts. But, owing to the overcrowded conditions of our gaol facilities, the Government established a programme of relocating the approximately 60 Indonesian fishermen with families and performing some domestic work and earning their return air fares to Indonesia. After three or four months of this programme, we were able to repatriate the Indonesian fishermen. A week later we captured some 125 other fishermen, who are still in Palau.

(Mr. Uherbelau, Special
Adviser)

The Administering Authority is aware of our problem, and before the end of the year we are to receive a commissioned Coast Guard cutter to assist us in patrolling our 200-mile exclusive economic zone. We have also approached the Department of the Interior and the United States Defense Mapping Agency to assist the Republic in formulating an official map delineating the exact co-ordinates for that zone. We shall then be able to engage in maritime boundary negotiations with our neighbours - the Philippines, Indonesia and the Federated States of Micronesia - which border on our 200-mile exclusive economic zone.

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom): Yesterday when we considered this item I asked the Administering Authority to comment on the statement by the Vice-President of Palau, one of whose claims was that no assistance had been given to deal with the problems of drug abuse and other substance abuse. In reply, if I noted it correctly, the Administering Authority simply referred my delegation back to the report. I think it would be helpful both for the record and for the information of other members of the Council if the Administering Authority could spell out the main points of its assistance to Palau in this area.

Miss BYRNE (United States): I did not intend in my response yesterday to refer members of the Council back to the report. I thought I had said that we had given grants in fiscal year 1988 for drug education, police training and law enforcement, drug identification equipment, a special public-safety consultant and an education programme for schools. I see now that the representative of the United Kingdom is correct: I added the phrase

"as described in the annual report". (T/PV.1664, p. 22)

However, that was not intended to ignore the very important question that he raised.

(Miss Byrne, United States)

With specific reference to drug education, in fiscal year 1988 we gave grants for the following projects - some of this is a repetition of what I have already said: police training and law enforcement, drug identification equipment, a special public-safety consultant, and an education programme for schools.

As part of the present high-priority item of an overall programme in the United States concerning controlled substances, efforts are under way to involve and include Palau in appropriate activities.

I wish to add that substantial progress is being made to restrict and impede the flow of controlled substances to and through Palau. Our own Drug Enforcement Agency and United States Customs officers are working closely with law enforcement agencies in Palau to identify and apprehend those responsible. We believe that with continued co-ordinated efforts the message will get across that Palau is not a safe haven for drug dealers.

As I said earlier, an active substance abuse education programme and law enforcement training are being carried out in Palau by the local authorities.

You may wish, Mr. President, to call upon the representative of Palau for further details.

The PRESIDENT: Does Mr. Uherbelau wish to add anything?

Mr. UHERBELAU (Special Adviser): I have nothing to add to what Ambassador Byrne has said.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We have read very carefully the report of the Administering Authority on the situation in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands over the past year. For the Council to work effectively we need as much information as possible about the situation, and therefore we have a number of questions for the representative of the Administering Authority.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

I begin with some questions that are general, but that have specific and serious matters underlying them. With regard to administration, the Administering Authority naturally takes as a basis the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement. Article 76 of the Charter and article 6 of the Trusteeship Agreement oblige the Administering Authority to promote the economic advancement and independence of the people.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

Why? To regulate the use of natural resources, encourage the development of fisheries, agriculture and industry; to protect the population from the loss of its lands and natural resources; and to improve transport and communications.

I think it would be a good idea to get from the Administering Authority information as to how successful it has been in performing its duties during the last year. What progress has actually taken place, if indeed there has been progress, in each part of the Trust Territory? How does the Administering Authority assess the degree of economic independence in the various parts of the Trust Territory? Here we have in mind the inability of the local authorities in certain parts of Micronesia to have control over resources, the true level of economic development, and the extent to which they are able to be self-sufficient in their lives and with regard to the future development of the economy.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): I agree with the partial enumeration of the goals of the Administering Authority as stated by the representative of the Soviet Union. He referred to Article 76 of the Charter and article 6 of the Trusteeship Agreement. We agree that those articles do set forth what the Administering Authority should do, and they certainly set forth what this Administering Authority has sought to do.

I should like to read out a full list of the United States goals. They are: first, to foster the development of political institutions as suited to the Trust Territory; second, to promote the development of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory towards self-government or independence; third, to develop the participation in government of the inhabitants of the Territory, giving due recognition to the customs of the inhabitants; fourth, to encourage the development of fisheries, agriculture and industry; fifth, to protect the inhabitants against the loss of their lands and resources; sixth, to improve the means of their transportation and communications; seventh, to promote the freedoms of all elements

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of the population without discrimination; eighth, and finally, to promote the educational advancement of the inhabitants and, to that end, to establish a general system of education to facilitate vocational and cultural advancement and to encourage qualified students to pursue higher education.

Those are the goals of the Administering Authority. I submit that the annual report, which is quite detailed, provides the necessary material on what has been done and what progress has been made in each of the fields enumerated.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to thank the representative of the Administering Authority for the enumeration of the tasks to be shouldered by the Administering Authority in discharging its obligations in administering the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. After hearing that list, I need not repeat parts of the question I asked. In fact, I spoke of just some of the tasks to be assumed by the Administering Authority in discharging the mandate agreed upon by the Trusteeship Council. As to how the Administering Authority meets those responsibilities and achieves those goals, we shall have a chance to discuss this more than once at this session.

The Administering Authority has commented to the effect that all these questions are answered in the annual report. Well, I must say that we read it very carefully, and unfortunately, with regard to the question we put to the Administering Authority, no answer is given in the report. In any case, the report does not contain information as to the progress achieved since the previous year.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

I am not referring to the fact that the report deals with only one part of the Trust Territory - Palau - not to other parts of the Trust Territory. That in itself is a great flaw - and not only a flaw; it also makes the Council's effort to evaluate the situation now prevailing in the Trust Territory more difficult.

My question, however, was more general. We asked how the Administering Authority views the level of economic independence in the Trust Territory, which it should promote there. How can we realistically see that progress in each part of the Trust Territory? If the representative of the Administering Authority finds it difficult to answer that question at the present juncture, we do not want to rush her into anything. We are prepared to wait for an evaluation at the next meeting.

I do have a second question, which concerns the duties of the Administering Authority to promote social progress for the people of the Trust Territory. I do not think it would be superfluous for the representative of the Administering Authority to evaluate the progress made to date in that area. We are not referring now to individual parts of the Trust Territory, but we could amplify our question by saying that the report submitted to the Council at this session does not provide an answer to this question. It does not show the true situation with regard to the level of economic, social, cultural or any other type of progress in the Trust Territory.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): I was rather astonished at the statement of the representative of the Soviet Union. If I understood him correctly, he said that the report of the Administering Authority did not show the true situation in the Trust Territory.

Now, the report the United States submits annually is designed to describe the situation in the Territory. I do not know by what standards the representative of

(Miss Byrne, United States)

the Soviet Union is abiding, but we, the United States, as Administering Authority, believe that we do submit information that records the true situation in the Territory. That is the purpose of the annual report - apart from the requirement to do so under the Charter and under the Trusteeship Agreement.

We submit reports that describe the true situation in detail. If the representative of the Soviet Union wants evaluation, I think that, in fact, that is the task of the reader. The report is submitted to the Council, and members of the Council read that report and can see from their lights what has happened, and they can make their own evaluation. We think our task is to record the facts, and that that is done annually.

The representative of the Soviet Union made a comment about the report's not making comparisons between the current year and last year. I do not know that there is a requirement for that, but, in any case, the report does contain significant statistics that do show 1987 as against 1988.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It is my feeling that the representative of the Administering Authority is now finding it rather difficult to give an assessment of the development of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. No doubt some difficulties have arisen here, but I will not insist on getting a direct answer now. We are prepared to wait for that, in the interests of efficiency.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

We shall be able to receive some kind of an answer about how fully this report reflects the situation regarding the development of the Trust Territory during the past year when we consider this chapter in the proper order. We shall wait for that time in order to avoid an exchange of gratuitous generalizations and to engage in a more businesslike kind of conversation.

I would only repeat now what I said before: The report contains factual material with regard to only one part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. That is a major shortcoming since there is no information about the other parts of the Territory.

We have compared this year's report by the Administering Authority with the one submitted last year, in order to determine how much progress has been made. In the report presented by the Administering Authority to the last session of the Trusteeship Council, the Administering Authority stated, under the section on "International peace and security", that there were no permanent military facilities in the Trust Territory and that

"There are no plans ... to establish any permanent military facilities in the Territory at this time".

In the report presented by the Administering Authority to this session of the Council, however, such a statement in regard to its plans is not to be found.

Therefore, we should like to know what, if anything, has changed in the plans of the United States. What are the reasons for the change, if any? Could the representative of the Administering Authority comment on this point?

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): The representative of the Soviet Union said that he felt that I was finding it difficult to give an assessment of the development of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and that he was prepared to wait. I wish to say that I did not find it difficult to do that. In

(Miss Byrne, United States)

fact, I said what I wished to say. I said that we described developments; evaluation is for another forum or audience.

Moreover, I really do feel quite businesslike. He said, if I understood him correctly, that we should have more businesslike conversations. I repeat: I think the Trusteeship Council is a very serious body and that it calls for serious deliberations. I gave the answer that I wanted to give. I do consider it businesslike - at least from my point of view.

The representative of the Soviet Union raised the point about the lack of any statement in this year's annual report that the Administering Authority has no plans to set up any military facilities. He asked - and I am summarizing - what had changed in the Administering Authority's plans. I wish to say that if such a statement does not appear in this year's report, it is simply an inadvertent omission.

I shall say again that the United States has never made any military use of Palau, nor has it stationed military personnel for military purposes there - as members of the Trusteeship Council who have visited Palau are well aware. The United States does have limited options under the Compact - which, of course, is not in effect - to use certain areas in Palau for military purposes. The United States - the Administering Authority, that is - has no present intention to do so.

In sum, nothing has changed in the attitude or intentions or position of the Administering Authority with respect to military facilities.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I have a great deal of respect for what is being said here by the representative of the Administering Authority and certainly in no way intended to cast any doubt on the seriousness of her approach to the problems we are discussing. The answer we have just heard to the question put by the Soviet delegation, if I understood correctly, referred only to Palau. I am sure that I did not err in my assessment, because I listened to the answers in English; I do not rely on the interpretation. All the same, I would like to hear an answer not just about Palau, but also about all the other parts of the Trust Territory. We know that the Kwajalein Atoll is used as a proving ground for intercontinental missiles. That fact alone is somewhat in contradiction with the statement we have just heard. So we would still like further clarification about this question.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): Normally we discuss the current report, in this case from 1 October 1987 to 30 September 1988. The representative of the Soviet Union, however, earlier referred to the previous report, so I shall also do so. Last year the representative of the Soviet Union repeatedly raised the issue of information on the other parts of the Trust Territory, and he has done so again in answer to my response concerning the United States position on military facilities in Palau.

As I said last year, the current report covers the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, in compliance with Trusteeship Council resolution 2183 (LIII), which recognized the progress made in the Marshalls, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Northern Marianas, and which urged the full implementation of the Compact of Free Association for the Marshalls and the Federated States and the Commonwealth Covenant for the Marianas no later than 30 September 1986. The

(Miss Byrne, United States)

Covenant and the Compact came into full force on 21 October 1986 for the Marshalls, and on 3 November 1986 for the Federated States of Micronesia and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Their relations with the United States are now governed by their respective new statuses, which have been duly reported to the Trusteeship Council. The information supplied and available is fully consistent with this situation. Last year I mentioned that further information could be obtained directly from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. In last year's report three addresses were provided. This year's report does not contain that information. I shall, however, be very happy to provide it at tomorrow's meeting.

Now, as to the military facilities question, I said that there was no change, and I repeat that: there is no change in the United States position on military facilities.

Mr BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We are obliged to revert once again to the subject of the Administering Authority's obligation to submit information to the United Nations with regard to the whole of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Of course, the establishment by the Administering Authority of a special relationship with any part of the Trust Territory does not necessarily give the Administering Authority any right to dispense itself unilaterally from any of the obligations incumbent upon it under the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement between the United States and the Trusteeship Council, an agreement which has not been rescinded by the Security Council.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

We shall not now discuss the legal aspects of the legitimacy of the Trusteeship Council resolution of 1986; we have spoken of this before and will do so again if we have to. But I must reaffirm categorically that the Security Council and the United Nations as a whole have not freed the United States as Administering Authority from its obligation to provide information on the entire Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Moreover, at previous sessions - since we seem to keep referring back to previous sessions - the Soviet delegation has repeatedly asked the delegation of the Administering Authority whether it would provide information about the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The answer has been that the United States would continue to comply with its obligations under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement; that answer is on record.

The representative of the United States has just said that agreements have entered into force with parts of the Territory; she referred to the Covenant with the Northern Mariana Islands. At the current session of the Trusteeship Council, a delegation came from the Northern Marianas and told the Council that the Covenant was a sham and that the Northern Marianas had effectively been turned into a colony. They told us that the local authorities did not exercise self-government in the Northern Marianas.

In that connection, I refer once again to last year's session. Last year the delegation from the Northern Marianas brought that situation to the Trusteeship Council's attention; needless to say, this did not escape the notice of the delegation of the Administering Authority. But at the current session we will hear about developments in the Northern Marianas only from the delegation that came to us from the Northern Marianas; the Administering Authority's report contains not a word about the situation there.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

We should like the representative of the Administering Authority to provide information about the substance of this matter: the current situation in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): The representative of the Soviet Union talked repeatedly about the Security Council and the juridical standing of Trusteeship Council resolution 2183 (LIII). He said that the Security Council had not freed the United States from obligations, and so on.

I must say that I find this discussion of the Security Council in the Trusteeship Council to be quite irrelevant. Nobody has talked about the role of the Security Council or questioned the role of the Security Council. The United States has an agreement - the Trusteeship Agreement - with the Security Council; that Agreement remains in effect; no action has been taken on the matter. So it just does not belong in this discussion.

As I have said many times - last year, the year before and the year before that - the United States fully abides by its obligations under the United Nations Charter and under the 1947 Trusteeship Agreement between the United Nations Security Council and the United States Government. That situation stands; it will continue to stand.

In so far as the repeated requests for information in addition to what has been submitted in this year's Annual Report, I repeat what I have said before: The report is submitted in accordance with United States obligations under the Charter and under the Trusteeship Agreement. That has not changed.

With respect to his comments on the complaints and criticisms this year and last year of the delegation of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, I would say that the Administering Authority agrees with the conclusion last year of the Trusteeship Council that any difficulties over the interpretation of the new status agreements should be resolved by the parties concerned in accordance with the procedures mutually agreed and laid down in the relevant new status agreements.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We are very satisfied to note the statement just made by the representative of the United States to the effect that the Administering Authority is not casting doubt on the authority of the Security Council vis-à-vis the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and also the statement that the United States will fully discharge its obligations both under the Charter and under the Trusteeship Agreement.

As regards the question of the situation in the Northern Marianas, with all due respect, it is difficult for us to agree with the interpretation just given to the Trusteeship Council. We repeat that the Trusteeship Council has not yet renounced its powers vis-à-vis the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and it cannot do so until it has instructions from the Security Council to that effect.

But we are being told here that what happens in the Northern Marianas is "our personal affair", a matter for the relationship between the United States and the population of the Northern Marianas. Well, I do not think that that is correct, since a delegation from the Northern Marianas is attending the Trusteeship Council and is levelling a very serious criticism against the Trusteeship Council - an organ of the United Nations - to the effect that the Council is not paying attention to the situation that has come about in the Trust Territory.

I think the Trusteeship Council should react to that and that the Trusteeship Council is entitled to question the representative of the Administering Authority about what exactly is going on there. We are now being told that the people of the Northern Marianas are being prepared, by means of a vote, to define their relationship with the United States. The representatives of the Administering Authority say that that is not the business of the Trusteeship Council but concerns the United States and the people of the Northern Marianas. It is difficult for us to agree with that interpretation of the question.

The PRESIDENT: As I understand it, that was an observation and not a question - a point of disagreement. Do I take it that the representative of the Soviet Union wishes to put a question?

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I drew attention to the fact that Ambassador Byrne raised her hand. Perhaps she wanted to comment on my disagreement. As a gentleman, I would of course not wish to prevent her from speaking. I really did ask a question, but I can raise it later.

Miss BYRNE (United States): I raised my hand automatically, Mr. President, not having distinguished the fine point that you did, that in fact a question had not been asked. But I will take the opportunity to comment.

As I understood the representative of the Soviet Union, he said that I had said that the question of the Northern Marianas was nobody's business but that of the United States and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In fact, what I said was that we agreed with what the Trusteeship Council itself had concluded last year, and I quoted from its report to the Security Council. The Council said nothing about whose business it was. I know that the Soviet Union voted against the report, but it was adopted by the majority, and therefore it is the report of the Trusteeship Council. It said:

"any difficulties over the interpretation of the new status agreements should be resolved ... by the parties concerned in accordance with the procedures mutually agreed and laid down in the relevant new status agreements."

(S/20168, para. 120)

That is a statement of the Trusteeship Council. I merely said that the Administering Authority agreed with it.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I have a very specific question now on the report. So that the Administering Authority knows what I was talking about, I refer to page 19 of the report.

On page 19, table No. 3 clearly shows for 1986 and 1987 a negative balance of revenues and expenditures. Can the representative of the Administering Authority clarify the reason for that chronic deficit? What funds are being used to cover it? What steps is the Administering Authority taking to seek a balance of revenues and expenditures?

Miss BYRNE (United States): The figures in the table represent revenues from all sources, not limited to, but certainly including, the funding that the United States appropriates to Palau. But all decisions on the use of those monies - that is, on what the United States appropriates for Palau and of course on revenues it obtains from other sources - are made by the Government of Palau.

Now, Mr. President, I would ask you please to call upon Mr. Uherbelau, who can give a very precise answer.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Special Adviser): I thank the representative of the Administering Authority for asking us to supplement her answer.

The Republic of Palau has been reporting an annual deficit to the Council over the years. Table No. 3 on page 19 shows a difference between revenues from all sources and expenditures of nearly \$2 million. That is a carry-over deficit from year to year. We have appealed to the Administering Authority year after year for additional funds for government operations. In our budget request to the United States Congress last month we asked for \$18,550,000 for those operations, and included in that request is an item to pay off the annual deficit from year to year.

Mr. BEREZOVSKY (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am grateful for Mr. Uherbelau's answer.

One way or another we are virtually returning to my first question to the Administering Authority at the beginning of this meeting, about the obligations it assumed for the Trust Territory and its development, including its economic development. The question I am now putting to the Administering Authority concerns the cause of the chronic deficit. As Mr. Uherbelau said, it has been going on for more than merely a few years; that is no secret to the Administering Authority.

(Mr. Berezovsky, USSR)

It is the Administering Authority that bears the responsibility for developing the Territory, and I think it should have analysed the situation and taken steps to promote the harmonious development of the Territory to help it move towards the attainment of economic stability and independence. That is why I asked the question.

What are the causes of this chronic deficit? What funding is used to cover it? What steps are being taken by the Administering Authority - not the local authorities, I would stress, but the Administering Authority - to promote a balanced budget?

Miss BYRNE (United States of America): The representative of the Soviet Union has asked about the causes of the deficit and referred to the Administering Authority's obligation concerning the harmonious development, economic stability and independence of Palau. He has also asked what the United States, as Administering Authority, is doing to bring about a balanced budget.

The United States appropriates money for Palau that is a known sum. As I mentioned yesterday, the operational funding for Palau - that is, the money turned over to Palau - nearly doubled between 1981 and to 1988. It was \$8 million in 1981 and \$14.5 million in 1988. That is a known sum.

That money is turned over to the Government of Palau, and how it is used is then strictly the decision of the Government of Palau. That is the system that has been in effect since the adoption of the Palauan Constitution. It is one more manifestation of their self-government. They make the decisions. The deficit has been caused by those decisions.

As I have said, the fact that they make the decisions indicates the degree of self-government obtaining in the Territory.

(Miss Byrne, United States)

As far as a balanced budget is concerned, it is in our view for the Government of Palau to decide how to arrive at a balanced budget. It has received significant funding for its own use from the United States, as I have indicated. They have that money, and they decide how to use it. The continuation of the deficit is a function of the Palauan Government's decision-making responsibility.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The PRESIDENT: In view of the hour, I propose to adjourn the meeting. Should I assume that members of the Council may have further questions to put to the Administering Authority? It appears so. We shall meet next at 10.30 a.m. tomorrow, when we shall continue the questions and the examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority, after completion of which we shall turn to the examination of written petitions.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.