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Fifty-fifth Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY-SIXTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 26 May 1988, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. GAUSSOT (France)

- Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories: report of the Secretary-General (General Assembly resolutions 557 (VI) and 753 (VIII))
- Co-operation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolutions 2106 B (XX) and 42/57)
- Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolutions 3057 (XXVIII) and 42/47)
- Report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council: report of the Drafting Committee (T/L.1266)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.05 a.m.

OFFERS BY MEMBER STATES OF STUDY AND TRAINING FACILITIES FOR INHABITANTS OF TRUST TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 557 (VI) AND 753 (VIII))

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As agreed at our last meeting, we shall now take up the report of the Secretary-General contained in document T/1926 under agenda item 6. Does any member of the Council wish to speak on the item? There being no comments, I would suggest that the Council decide to take note of the report of the Secretary-General.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We have thus concluded our consideration of agenda item 6.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 2106 B (XX) AND 42/57)

SECOND DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 3057 (XXVIII) AND 42/47)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We shall now take up the consideration of agenda items 8 and 9 and, in accordance with our usual practice, I suggest that the Council consider these two items together. If I hear no objection it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): At our last meeting on Monday 23 May the Secretariat distributed some information relating to these items including the text of resolutions 42/57 and 42/47, which were adopted on 30 November 1987 by the General Assembly at its forty-second session.

Are there any comments on agenda items 8 and 9, which the Council has decided to take up together?

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): With your permission, Mr. President, before I begin to make my observations and the comments of my delegation on agenda items 8 and 9, I should like to ask one question of the Secretariat, through you, about yesterday and today and some information that has been requested. I should like to recall that during consideration of agenda item 7 on the dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, the Soviet delegation had drawn attention to serious inaccuracies in the Secretariat's report, document T/1924. In that connection I should like to recall that paragraph 9 of that report contains material relating to supposed discussions in the Trusteeship Council about the Compact of Free Association of Palau. However, the Soviet delegation has already drawn attention to the fact that the Compact was not discussed as such in the Trusteeship Council. So, Mr. President, we wish to ask the Secretariat, through you, how it responds to this serious distortion which has been pointed out to it in the report and what measures have been taken to correct that distortion. That is my question.

With your permission, Sir, I should like now to comment on agenda items 8 and 9. These items are of significant importance in respect of the situation and the realities of the situation in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. It is, first, a matter of how in that Territory the programme, that is the programme proclaimed by the United Nations in 1983 relating to the second decade of action to combat racism and racial discrimination, is being implemented. It is also a matter of the status of the co-operation between the Administering Authority for that Trust Territory and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination with regard to the implementation in that Territory of the purposes and tasks of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. I believe that the

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relevance and importance of these matters is self-evident. As is emphasized in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the creation of a world-wide community free of all forms of racial segregation and discrimination is one of the fundamental tasks of the United Nations.

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On 2 November 1973 the General Assembly adopted resolution 3057 (XXVIII) proclaiming the Decade of Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination and at that time the Assembly approved a detailed programme of measures at the national and international levels to attain the goals of the Decade. The Programme of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which was approved by the General Assembly, endorsed and developed the provisions of the previous Decade's Programme. The goals and objectives required of the peoples and Governments that they make continuing efforts to eliminate racial discrimination and

"to promote human rights and fundamental freedom for all, without distinction of any kind on grounds of race, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin"
(resolution 3057 (XXVIII), annex, para. 8)

In order to achieve this, the Programme included a series of mutually supporting measures at the national level. First of all, according to the Programme, legislative measures must be taken to prohibit discrimination against people in all areas of social life, namely, discrimination based on race, colour or ethnic origin. Procedures were also to be established to combat any manifestations of racial discrimination. The Programme also attaches special importance to the drafting and implementation by countries of measures in the economic, social, cultural and political areas, ensuring full equality for all peoples and individuals without any discrimination whatsoever, and that would include discrimination on the basis of race, colour or ethnic origin.

As is known, the Decade's Programme is based on such authoritative international instruments as the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the Declaration and Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The Programme provides for the need to implement the relevant provisions of those international legal instruments.

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As was decided by the General Assembly, Governments were regularly to send to the United Nations reports describing measures they had taken to implement the Programme of the Decade. In accordance with the Trusteeship Agreement and under the Charter of the United Nations it is the direct responsibility of the Administering Power to prohibit any manifestation of racism or racial discrimination and to ensure respect for fundamental rights and human freedoms in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. This flows, inter alia, from Article 76 of the Charter which makes it mandatory for the administering Power to ensure respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion.

Now what is the actual situation in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands in this respect? What measures - legislative, administrative, judicial, educational - have been taken by the administering Power to prohibit in that Territory any manifestation of racial discrimination? What, specifically, has been done and is being done to ensure in that Trust Territory full equality for all people there regardless of their racial or ethnic origin? And what is happening in that Territory in respect of implementation of the specific provisions of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination? It is quite clear that information on these extremely important issues should be included in the annual reports of the administering Power on the situation in the Trust Territory submitted to the United Nations.

However, if we study the report submitted by the administering Power for consideration at this session of the Trusteeship Council, we must come to the conclusion that it does not contain information on how the specific requirements of the Programme of Action for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination is being implemented in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The fact that the situation is not as good as one might wish and that there are

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grounds for serious concern is something that can be seen from the material made available at this session of the Council - for example, the statements of petitioners drawing attention to violations of human rights in the Trust Territory. Also, there was the report submitted by the delegation of the International Commission of Jurists which visited Palau. That report cites examples of how the Palaun people were threatened and deprived of the opportunity to go to court in respect of illegal amendments to the Constitution of the island and how, as a result of threats and pressure and direct violence, members of the legislative bodies were forced to vote in favour of an amendment to the Constitution. There were also instances of pressure being brought to bear on judges.

The Soviet delegation is forced to note that the administering Power is not properly responding to the many appeals of the General Assembly or even to the appeals of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination regarding the submission of information as to how the provisions of international instruments on protection of human rights and halting and prohibiting racial discrimination are being implemented in the Trust Territory. The representatives of the administering Power can hardly deny that problems in this area do exist and that they are serious. I should like to express the hope that the delegation of the administering Power will submit the relevant information for consideration at this session of the Trusteeship Council.

The Trusteeship Council is also entitled to expect that the administering Power, in its next annual report to this body in respect of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, will not fail to provide information regarding the situation of legislative and other measures that will have been taken as well as regarding the situation relating to the effort to combat any manifestations of racism or racial discrimination. Here I would emphasize that we should get information about

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legislative, administrative, judicial, educational and other measures. This is after all required pursuant to decisions taken by the United Nations relating to the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

In resolutions on the report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the General Assembly has frequently appealed to the administering Power - and this naturally relates here to the United States -

"to co-operate with [the Committee] by providing all the necessary information in order to enable the Committee to discharge fully its responsibilities under article 15 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination." (General Assembly resolution 40/28)

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However, we are obliged to note that the administering Power continues to ignore the appeals of the General Assembly and the decisions of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and of the Committee on Decolonization.

In conclusion, the Soviet delegation would like to state its hope that the Trusteeship Council will express proper concern and attach attention to this problem of ending and prohibiting racial discrimination in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Co-operating with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would include transmitting to the Committee, in accordance with its frequent requests, material on respect for the civil, political, social and cultural rights of the inhabitants of the Territory, regardless of their racial or ethnic origins.

I would venture to express the hope that in its next report the administering Power will make available to the Trusteeship Council detailed information on this matter, and we trust that it will also submit the requested information to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

I believe that the Trusteeship Council should appeal to the administering Power to give due attention to the request made by the General Assembly in its resolution 42/47 to the effect that the international community as a whole, and the United Nations in particular, must continue in the future to give priority attention to the programmes to combat racism, racial discrimination and apartheid.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Earlier, the representative of the Soviet Union addressed a question through me to the Secretariat in connection with agenda item 7. I should like to inform him that the Secretariat will be checking with the Department of Public Information on the follow-up action taken on the point raised by the Soviet delegation.*

* Subsequently, document T/1924/Corr.1 was issued.

Mr. BUCZACKI (United States of America): I should like to offer a few comments on the statement we have just heard from the representative of the Soviet Union regarding the situation in the Trust Territory. I would note that his remarks strongly implied, although he did not state outright, that racial discrimination was a problem in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. He presented no evidence in support of those implications, I believe for the simple reason that racism is less prevalent in Micronesia than perhaps in any society elsewhere in the world. For all practical purposes, racism is non-existent in the Trust Territory, a fact to which even casual observers who have visited the Territory will testify, as will, I believe, a number of visiting missions sent by this body over the course of time.

The representative of the Soviet Union also made reference to some of the charges that have been voiced in the Council regarding the interruption of the judicial process in the Trust Territory in relation to the Compact of Free Association. I would complete the picture that he started to paint by pointing out that that process was, in fact, peacefully resumed and that a decision was reached by the Palau Supreme Court. That decision is being appealed peacefully and in an orderly manner and a decision is expected later this summer. Therefore I would argue that these allegations of violations of human rights are, in fact, not true.

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom): The statement just made by the representative of the Soviet Union demonstrates quite clearly to my delegation that these two items are no longer serious items on the Council's agenda. Of course, my delegation quite naturally shares the view of the international community that racism itself is a serious and important issue and that the elimination of racial discrimination is an important cause. Indeed, the two recent resolutions of the General Assembly, which the Secretariat has kindly provided to us, are consensus resolutions in which my delegation participated. Furthermore, we have no doubt

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that at the time when the Trusteeship Council had several Territories on its agenda, this item was a worthwhile element in its work. But now, of course, there is only one Trust Territory remaining, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and in all the petitions, oral and written, in all the statements that we have heard, in all the reports that we have received from the Administering Authority over the years, and in all the various other documents submitted to the Council, my delegation can find no evidence whatsoever of any racial discrimination or racism in the Trust Territory. On top of that, we now have the clear assurance from the Administering Authority, which we have just heard, that, indeed, no such problems exist.

It seems that only the Soviet Union, with its twisted and distorted perspective, is able to find such evidence. We have been treated to a reiteration of familiar allegations which bear little relation to the problem or, indeed, to the truth. Micronesia may still have its problems - any developing country inevitably will - but racism appears certainly not to be one of them.

The Soviet Union does a disservice to the Council, to the people of Micronesia, and indeed to those people in the world who truly do suffer from the problem of racism, when it seeks to distort matters in this way.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I think we can express satisfaction with the fact that a dialogue - even though it is a rather unusual dialogue - has been begun on the question how, in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the programme of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination is being implemented, despite the fact that, according to the representative of the United Kingdom, this item is not a serious one. I begin with this allegation. Is it a serious item or is it not?

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It is a rather strange situation when the representative of one country speaks in different ways on one and the same item in different bodies of the United Nations. In other bodies, including the General Assembly, when consideration is given to this issue of the implementation of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, the delegation of the United Kingdom speaks out in support of the programme and calls for its implementation everywhere. Moreover, its representative said that there is no place in the world where one can claim that there is no sign whatsoever, however remote, of a possible manifestation of racial discrimination. But apparently this is true everywhere in the world except the Pacific Islands.

I think that that is not a very serious approach to this item. That is my first point.

Secondly, the representative of the administering Power, judging by his statement, imagined that there was some offense in what we said. He made a reference to allegations which were not true and said that even raising the question as to how the programme of the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination is being implemented in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands presumed that racial discrimination existed in the Territory. But I think that is not a very correct method of carrying on a dialogue.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted a second programme to combat racism and racial discrimination, and it is a programme for 10 years, for a decade. This applies to all, and I would emphasize this, to all countries, all Members of the United Nations. All of them were asked to report regularly, and this includes the country represented by the representative of the United Kingdom. So why should the administering Power not have to report on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands?

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What did we say in our statement? We said that according to the Programme in the Decades, even the first Programme for the First Decade, legislative, administrative, judicial, educational and other measures were to be taken in order to put an end to any kind of racial segregation or discrimination where such measures had not been taken. We want information concerning this to be submitted to us. Why is this not being done? Why are people refusing to do this? Why should the representative of the United Kingdom feel that such information need be submitted only in certain circumstances? Why should an exception be made for the administering Power of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands? I see no reason for this.

Therefore, I should like the wishes expressed by our delegation in our statement to be taken with all the seriousness that they deserve, with all the seriousness that the United Nations, its General Assembly and the Committee to Combat Racial Discrimination has in mind. Incidentally, the United Kingdom, like the Soviet Union, submits such reports to the Committee. I hope, therefore, that the administering Power will, in its next report submit information that has been requested in the documents of the General Assembly, documents that we cited, relating to the programme for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and the resolutions relating to co-operation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom): With respect to the representative of the Soviet Union, he clearly was not listening to the remarks which I made just now. I began my statement by emphasizing the seriousness which my delegation attaches to the problems of racism and racial discrimination. That is without question. But these matters are covered fully and comprehensively by other United Nations bodies. In this United Nations body, the Trusteeship Council, the Soviet Union has

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referred to the same allegations which they have always made, but in the context of this agenda item has tried to twist these allegations to imply racial discrimination where, as far as my delegation can see, none exists. For example, the isolated and indeed deplorable incidents of violence which took place in Palau were certainly not racial in character. They took place between members, not just of the same race but of the same small island community.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): This is a rather surprising thing. The representative of the United Kingdom said that I did not understand him, and he felt he had to explain the situation for a second time. But for a second time the comments were to the effect that there were allegations. He suggested that there were twisted allegations made by us. But I think that this is a narrow and one-sided interpretation of what was in fact said by our delegation, not only in our first statement but also in our second statement.

The Soviet delegation referred to the need to provide information fully, specifically, and in detail, about legislative, administrative, judicial, educational and other measures adopted in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, with a view to implementing the purposes and tasks of the programme for the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination - in other words, the information that all States are obliged to submit according to the decision of the General Assembly. This would include States and information in respect of Trust Territories.

The representative of the United Kingdom apparently did not appreciate this, but I really do not understand why. Of course I do realize the situation. I understand that the representative of the United Kingdom visited the Trust

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Territory, and had an opportunity to hear what happened there. But that is not what I am talking about. I am talking about the Programme for the Second Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, which prescribed information being provided for everywhere, as to whether there actually is any. It is not a question of whether there actually is any racial discrimination. It is a question of legislative, administrative, judicial, educational and other measures being taken, not only to put an end to racial discrimination if it exists, but also to prohibit any emergence of such manifestations in the future. I hope that the wish expressed by our delegation in this respect will be complied with properly, without any attempt to twist or distort what my delegation has said.

Mr. BUCZAKI (United States of America): I will be very brief. I merely wish to note that the representative of the Soviet Union has made frequent reference in his remarks to obligations that States have under the two General Assembly resolutions on these two items and I have been refreshing my memory by going through those two resolutions and nowhere do I see the word "obliges". In fact, I see words such as "requests", "invites", "appeals" and nowhere do I see anything that implies the sorts of obligations that the Soviet representative is citing in his statements.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): If there are no further comments on these two points and, if I hear no objection, I would suggest that the Council decide to take note of the comments made during this meeting on these two agenda items.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): That brings us to the conclusion of our consideration of items 8 and 9. The Council will now take up items 10 and 11 which involve the attainment of self-government or independence by the Trust Territories and the situation in Trust Territories with regard to the implementation of the Declaration in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and co-operation of the Council with the Special Committee of 24. I propose that, in accordance with the usual practice, the Council decide to consider these two items together. If I hear no objection it will be so decided.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): In this connection, the Secretariat distributed, at our 1655th meeting, the text of resolution 42/71, adopted by the General Assembly on 4 December 1987 at its forty-second session.

Are there any comments on items 10 and 11 which are being considered together?

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I was looking to my colleagues on the right and left. I did not want to give the impression that the Soviet Union always wanted to be first in these things. If they have anything to say perhaps they would prefer to speak before me.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): It appears that no other members are requesting the floor at this stage. Accordingly, the representative of the Soviet Union may proceed.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Agenda items 10 and 11 now before the Trusteeship Council, which you have described, are, in our view, closely connected with other items and they relate basically to how the administering Power is carrying out its obligations to promote the attainment of self-government or independence in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; what the situation is in this Territory from the viewpoint of the implementation of the Declaration regarding the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and how the Trusteeship Council and the administering Power are co-operating with the United Nations Special Committee on the implementation of the Declaration, now widely known as the Declaration on Decolonization. The international trusteeship system was established by the United Nations in order to help the peoples of Trust Territories to overcome more quickly the sequels of colonial oppression and to ensure that they had an opportunity to attain political and economic independence just like any other people.

More than a quarter of a century has passed since the United Nations proclaimed the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Moreover, the Declaration was adopted without any votes against it. That is a very important point. Because of its importance, the adoption of the Declaration has become an event of historic significance. It has played, and continues to play, an important role in mobilizing the efforts of the world

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community to eliminate colonialism and to provide assistance to colonial peoples in their efforts to attain freedom and independence.

The United Nations Special Committee, which was established shortly after the adoption of the Declaration on Decolonization, was mandated to consider the implementation of the Declaration in any Trust Territories, which, naturally, includes Micronesia. In its recommendations to the General Assembly, the Special Committee has frequently emphasized that the administering Power has an obligation to create in the Trust Territory such conditions as would enable its people, freely and independently, and having been fully informed about all possible options, and without any kind of pressure, direct or indirect, or any kind of interference, to implement its inalienable rights to self-determination and independence. These recommendations contain a request to the Government of the United States, as Administering Authority, in accordance with its obligations under the Charter, to participate in the consideration of the issue of the situation in the Trust Territory and in the Special Committee on Decolonization to make available to that Committee all necessary information about the Territory.

However, once again we find ourselves obliged to say that, despite many requests, the administering Power is continuing to refuse to participate in the work of the Special Committee and is continuing to refuse to provide it with all the necessary information it requires. Moreover, in its reports to the Trusteeship Council, it passes over in silence what the situation is in the Trust Territory from the viewpoint of implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

Furthermore, in the statements made by the representatives of the administering Power in the Trusteeship Council, nothing is said regarding what has been done or is being done in respect of the Declaration on Decolonization. Why

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is this happening? Might it perhaps not be because the administering Power does not want to go into the details of its activities which are counter to the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement and the Declaration on Decolonization. We cannot fail to remember that, in the Declaration, the General Assembly proclaimed formally the need, immediately and without reservation, to put an end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

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The Assembly stated in particular:

"Any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations."

(resolution 1514 (XV), para. 6)

However, as has already been noted, the administering Power's activities in the Trust Territory are essentially designed to deprive the Micronesian people of their right to true freedom, unity and independence; they are also designed to perpetuate domination over the Trust Territory with a view to strengthening its military and strategic positions in the Pacific Ocean in the area very close to Asia.

The material made available at this session and the petitioners' statements show, we feel, that the administering Power is planning to continue strengthening and broadening in those islands test areas for missile technology and other military facilities, and that that will create a serious threat to the security of not only the Micronesian people but also other parts of Asia and the Pacific. The Micronesian people's exercise of its sovereignty would be a hindrance to the administering Power's efforts, which are basically designed to splinter that Trust Territory, annex it and impose on its various parts agreements, so-called compacts of free association and commonwealth, which are in fact contrary to the Declaration on decolonization.

The first victim was the Northern Marianas on which, circumventing the United Nations, the administering Power imposed a commonwealth agreement involving political union with the United States. From the current session of the Trusteeship Council we can see to what that has led: we heard statements from the Northern Marianas representative complaining that the administering Power's actions were in fact designed to deprive the Northern Mariana Islands of their right to vote in matters relating to self-government.

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After that the so-called compacts of free association were imposed on the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. Now the same thing is being attempted with Palau, whose people continue to resist the attempts to deprive them of their right to real self-determination - attempts embodied in the imposition of a compact of free association.

The United Nations is entitled and, we believe, obliged to speak out against this manifestation of neo-colonialist policy which is preventing the exercise by the people of the Trust Territory of their right to self-determination and independence. In this connection, we should like to draw attention to the conclusions and recommendations of the Special Committee on decolonization with regard to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The Special Committee, inter alia, once again:

"Calls upon the Government of the United States of America, as the Administering Authority, to ensure that there is a representative present at meetings of the Committee with a view to facilitating its work by providing the extremely important current information required, in accordance with its obligations under the Charter."

We would add that the Committee was obliged

"... to note, with regret, that the Trusteeship Council did not co-operate with the Special Committee in respect of this Territory, despite the Committee's willingness to carry out such co-operation".

That reproach is fully justified, and we believe that the Trusteeship Council must take it into consideration in its work.

In our delegation's view, the reluctance of the administering Power to co-operate with the General Assembly and the Special Committee and the reluctance of a majority of the Trusteeship Council to co-operate with the Special Committee

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are contrary to the 1960 Declaration on decolonization and other United Nations decisions in this area.

On 4 August 1987 the Special Committee on decolonization submitted to the President of the Trusteeship Council, for information of its members, the conclusions and recommendations on the situation in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands which were adopted by that Committee on 4 August 1987. I refer to document A/42/23 (Part VI), chapter IX, section 17. It would seem that the President of the Trusteeship Council should have brought that to the attention of members of the Council for their information; but, so far as we are aware, for reasons that we do not understand, that has not been done and the report has not been submitted to this session of the Council. However, the conclusions and recommendations contained in that report are directly related to the work of the Trusteeship Council and must be taken into consideration by this body. I believe that is how the Trusteeship Council should proceed.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Since there are no further comments on agenda items 10 and 11, I suggest that the Council decide to draw the attention of the Security Council to the proceedings of the Trusteeship Council concerning the attainment of self-government or independence by the Trust Territories in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, in particular Article 83, and to the statement made by a member of the Council on the subject.

It was so decided.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL: REPORT OF THE DRAFTING COMMITTEE (T/L.1266)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I call on Mr. Stephen Smith of the United Kingdom delegation to introduce the report of the Drafting Committee.

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom): I am privileged to introduce the report of the Drafting Committee, which delegations now have before them. The annex to the report contains draft conclusions and recommendations which we, the members of the Drafting Committee, commend to the Council for adoption and inclusion in the Council's annual report to the Security Council.

The draft conclusions and recommendations are for the most part identical to those adopted by the Council last year. The exception is a new paragraph 3 in which the Council would, if it agrees, express its views on the question of how to resolve any difficulties that may arise over the interpretation of the new status agreements.

The text as a whole is, we believe, fully consistent with the level of self-government and responsibility for their own affairs freely chosen by the Micronesian people.

For the rest, I think that the report speaks for itself and requires no further elaboration. I hope therefore that the Council will soon be in a position to adopt it.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Since there are no members wishing to speak at this stage, the Council will continue consideration of the report of the Drafting Committee at our next meeting, which will take place at 10.30 a.m., tomorrow, Friday. The Council will then take a decision on the conclusions and recommendations contained in document T/L.1266, which will be included in the report on the fifty-fifth session of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council.

The meeting rose at 12.05 p.m.

United Nations

Press Release

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Trusteeship Council
Fifty-fifth session
1656th Meeting (AM)

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26 May 1988

TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL CONSIDERS RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING TRUST TERRITORY
OF PACIFIC ISLANDS FOR INCLUSION IN REPORT TO SECURITY COUNCIL

Concludes Discussions on Study and Training Facilities,
Racial Discrimination, Co-operation with Decolonization Committee

The Trusteeship Council this morning considered a recommendation to the Security Council that any difficulties over the interpretation of the new status agreements in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands should be resolved bilaterally by the parties concerned.

The recommendation is included as part of the conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council (document T/L.1266). By other conclusions, the Council would note that the people of the Trust Territory had elected to assume full responsibility for administration in the economic, social and educational fields. It would further note with satisfaction the assurances given by the Administering Authority, the United States, that it would continue to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement.

Also this morning, the Council concluded discussion of the following matters: offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of the Trust Territory; co-operation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; attainment of self-government and independence; and co-operation with the Special Committee on decolonization.

The Council will meet again at 10:30 a.m. tomorrow, 27 May, to continue consideration of its report to the Security Council.

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Council Work Programme

The Trusteeship Council met this morning to consider: a report of the Secretary-General on offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories (document T/1926); co-operation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination; the attainment of self-government or independence by the Trust Territories; co-operation with the Special Committee on decolonization; and the draft conclusions and recommendations of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council (document T/L.1266).

Offers of Study and Training

The report of the Secretary-General entitled "Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Trust Territories", covers the period May 1987 to May 1988.

It states that the Secretary-General, in April, requested up-to-date information as to scholarships made available, as well as the extent to which awards had been made to and utilized by students from the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands from the 11 Member States that had made scholarships available in the past. Those countries are: Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Indonesia, Italy, Mexico, Pakistan, the Philippines, Poland, Tunisia, the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia.

According to the report, as of 17 May, information had been received from one offering State -- the Soviet Union -- which had informed the Secretary-General that during the 1987/1988 academic year, no inhabitants from the Trust Territory had studied in the Soviet Union.

The report adds that information on the scholarships made available was included in the twenty-fifth (1987/1988) edition of Study Abroad (published by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), which was sent to the Administering Authority and to the United Nations Information Centres.

In considering the item, the Council took note of the Secretary-General's report.

Racism and Racial Discrimination

DMITRIY V. BYKOV (Soviet Union) said the creation of a world free of racism and racial discrimination was one of the fundamental tasks of the United Nations. Under the programme established under the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, countries were asked to take legislative measures and procedures to combat any manifestation of racial discrimination.

Direct responsibility to ensure respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the Trust Territory lay with the Administering Authority, he said. He asked what had been done to ensure full equality in the Trust

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Territory and what measures had been taken to comply with the programme under the Second Decade. Information on those important issues should be included in the annual report of the Administering Authority. The report submitted this year did not include that information. Petitioners had referred to the violation of human rights in the Trust Territory.

The Administering Authority could hardly deny that problems relating to violation of human rights existed in the Trust Territory, he continued. In its next annual report, he hoped that the Authority would include information on legislative and other measures relating to efforts to combat any manifestation of racism and racial discrimination. The Council should appeal to that Authority to give due consideration to the programmes to combat racism and racial discrimination.

JEFFREY J. BUCZACKI (United States) said the statement by the Soviet representative had strongly implied that there was racial discrimination in the Trust Territory. In fact, racism was less prevalent in Micronesia than in any other part of the world. It was virtually non-existent. As to the reference to the disruption of the legislative process in Palau, the matter, as had been explained many times during the Council's session, had been duly taken care of by the courts. The Soviet Union's allegations of human rights violations in the Trust Territory were in fact not true.

J. STEPHEN SMITH (United Kingdom) believed that the items on the elimination of racism and racial discrimination and the Second Decade no longer belonged on the Council's agenda. The United Kingdom placed great importance on the elimination of racism and racial discrimination. However, there was now only one Trust Territory remaining, and in all the reports and statements submitted to the Council, there was no evidence whatsoever of racism or racial discrimination in the Trust Territory, he said.

There were also the assurances from the Administering Authority that racism and racial discrimination did not exist in the Trust Territory. "Only the Soviet Union, with its twisted and distorted perspective, could find such evidence" of racial discrimination in the Trust Territory, he said. Although Micronesia had its own problems, racism was not one of them. To discuss the question in the Trusteeship Council was a disservice to the Council, to the people of Micronesia and to the people of the world who were truly involved in eliminating racism and racial discrimination.

Mr. BYKOV (Soviet Union) said he could express satisfaction that some real dialogue was being started regarding implementation of the programme to eliminate racial discrimination. In other bodies where the matter was considered, the United Kingdom called for its implementation everywhere. The United Kingdom had also stated in other forums that there was no place anywhere in the world where there was no possible manifestation of racial discrimination. Did that exempt the Trust Territory? he asked.

The General Assembly had adopted a second 10-year programme against racial discrimination and racism, which applied to all Member States of the United Nations, he said. Why should that not apply to the Trust Territory of

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the Pacific Islands and why should an exception be made in the present instance? His Government's recommendations should be taken seriously, and it was hoped that next time the requested information would be submitted.

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom) said his Government attached seriousness to racial discrimination and racism, but those subjects were covered adequately in other bodies. The Soviet Union was trying to make twisted allegations of racism where none existed.

Mr. BYKOV (Soviet Union) said his Government had referred to the need to provide information on legislative, administrative, judicial and other matters relevant to the Programme of Action on the Second Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination -- information required of all Member States. Such activities covered matters designed not only to eliminate racial discrimination but to prevent its future emergence.

Mr. BUCZACKI (United States) said the Soviet representative had made reference to obligations of States. The resolutions of the General Assembly on co-operation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and on the Second Decade, in fact, did not place any obligations on States.

Attainment of Self-Government

Mr. BYKOV (Soviet Union) said the International Trusteeship System had been created to enable the people of the Trust Territories to attain speedily self-government or independence. The Administering Authority had an obligation to create such conditions that would enable the people of the Territory to freely, without any direct or indirect interference, attain their inalienable right to self-determination. Despite many appeals, the Administering Authority refused to co-operate with the Special Committee on decolonization and did not provide information with regard to the implementation of the decolonization Declaration in the Trust Territory.

The true intentions of the Administering Authority were to deprive the Micronesian people of their right to true self-determination and were designed to dominate the people of the Trust Territory in order to maintain United States strategic dominance in the area, he said. The Administering Authority was planning to continue to strengthen and broaden test areas for missile technology and other military bases which would pose a threat, not only to the people of the Pacific, but also the people of Asia.

Free association and a commonwealth status were, in fact, contrary to the Declaration on decolonization, he said. The United States was pursuing a neo-colonialist policy. The conclusions and recommendations of the Special Committee on decolonization had once again called on the Government of the United States to ensure that there would be a representative of the Administering Authority at Committee meetings to provide information on the Trust Territory. The Trusteeship Council must take into consideration the lack of co-operation by its members with the Special Committee on decolonization.

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Report to Security Council: Conclusions and Recommendations

The Trusteeship Council has before it the report of its Drafting Committee containing draft conclusions and recommendations (document T/L.1266) to be included in its report to the Security Council. By that draft, the Trusteeship Council would note that the people of the Trust Territory, in exercise of their right to self-government, had elected to assume full responsibility for administration in the economic, social and educational fields.

Also, the Council would consider that any difficulties over the interpretation of the new status agreements should be resolved bilaterally by the parties concerned. Finally, the Council would note with satisfaction the assurances given by the Administering Authority that it would continue to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement.

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom) introduced the report.

The President of the Council, JEAN-MICHEL GAUSSOT (France), announced that the Council would discuss and take action on the draft conclusions and recommendations at its next meeting.

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