



## Trusteeship Council

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## Fifty-seventh session

## VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIRST MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,  
on Friday, 1 June 1990, at 10.30 a.m.President:

Mrs. GAZEAU-SECRET

(France)

- Report of the United Nations Visiting Mission to Palau, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1990 (continued)
- Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority (continued)
- Report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council
- Attainment of self-government or independence by the Trust Territories (Trusteeship Council resolution 1369 (XVII) and General Assembly resolution 1413 (XIV) and the situation in the Trust Territories with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 44/101) (continued)

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- Co-operation with the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI))  
(continued)
- Suspension of the session

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m.

REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO PALAU, TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS, 1990 (T/1942 and T/L.1275) (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): In connection with this item, I should like to draw members' attention to draft resolution T/L.1275, which was introduced by the representative of the United Kingdom at the 1680th meeting of the Council on 30 May 1990.

If there are no comments, may I take it that the Council decides to adopt draft resolution T/L.1275 without a vote?

The draft resolution was adopted.

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): In connection with this item, I call on representatives of the Administering Authority to make closing statements.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): We appreciate the opportunity to make a closing statement. I would like first to ask the Special Representative Adviser of the Government of Palau within our delegation, Mr. Victor Uherbelau, to give the first part of our closing statement.

Mr. UHERBELAU (Special Representative Adviser): We have listened attentively during the past two weeks to statements and petitions regarding the conditions of Palau for the year under review. As the fifty-seventh annual session draws to a close, there does not seem to be much to comment on or new matters to bring up. I shall therefore be brief.

The Republic's deep concern over the inadequacies of infrastructure projects basic to our present and future economic well-being and self-sufficiency is a real one. It has been so for many years. Without minimum access roads in the big island of Babelthuap, transportation by land to the outlying villages and hamlets continues to be a dream unrealized. Our people commute daily to Koror, the

(Mr. Uherbelau, Special  
Representative Adviser)

commercial center, by outboard motor boats. That mode of travel has proved prohibitively expensive and, in low tides, extremely hazardous.

While the Ipseco power plant is indeed producing adequate power to service the entire Koror population in the residential, commercial and public sectors, we experience intermittent electric-power brown-outs. That is mainly due to defective and old transmission lines. The public water system runs less than 24 hours a day, owing to leakage in the underground mains.

We are encouraged, however, by statements made by Assistant Secretary Guerra of the Department of the Interior and by Ambassador Wilkinson's response to the petitioners concerning public-works projects to the effect that that the Administering Authority is taking positive steps towards remedying the problems in the capital improvement projects. We are hopeful that by this time next year, we will together present a more favourable report on that aspect of the Administering Authority's trust obligation.

I shall now move on to the existing relationship between Palau and the United States and the plan to enhance the physical presence of Department of the Interior personnel in Palau. We trust that this is in partial compliance with certain recommendations of the General Accounting Office. We do welcome the United States Federal Government's expertise, especially in the field of budgetary matters and financial management. We simply ask, however, that the advisers and experts should not take over vital functions of the Government that heretofore have been carried out by Palauan nationals themselves. To do otherwise will only be a disservice to my people and detract from them the measure of self-rule achieved over the last 10 years of operating under our own constitutional Government. Assistant Secretary Guerra is too conscientious an administrator to permit that. Under her tutelage, the programme cannot but succeed and advance the interests of the Palauan people.

(Mr. Uherbelau, Special  
Representative Adviser)

We also welcome the planned establishment of the Pacific Office at Honolulu, which would provide support services and other needed assistance to the Palau Department of the Interior Field Representative Office. We understand that that Office will also have a multifaceted function dealing with other United States Pacific insular areas and territories. We also hope that it will serve as a catalyst for the co-ordination of United States Federal programmes and as a midway clearing house for our numerous requests for technical and other assistance that need prompt attention.

It is gratifying to note that the major principal officers of the United States executive branch directly involved in the oversight administration of Palau, as the remaining component of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, are co-operatively working together.

(Mr. Uherbelau, Special  
Representative Adviser)

I am, of course, speaking of His Excellency Ambassador Wilkinson, Department of the Interior, Assistant Secretary Guerra and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Mrs. Marilyn Meyers. As one who has been a member of Palau's official delegations to your annual sessions for the past 10 years, I can personally testify as to the right attitude and sincerity of these three individuals and their resolve not only to address but collectively to find solutions to our problems. I commend them to the Trusteeship Council, and trust they will maintain an ongoing dialogue and the exchange of vital information among themselves so as to carry out well the co-ordinated oversight responsibility for the Administering Authority.

Moving on to Palau's relations with other foreign countries, we are extremely thankful to the Administering Authority, which, given our present Trusteeship status, has encouraged Palau to assume certain governmental functions in foreign affairs and international relations. As was reported in our opening statement, we are a full-fledged member of the Forum Fisheries Agency and we actively take part in its regional programmes and activities. We are also a signatory to the Convention for the Protection of the Environment of the South Pacific Region, commonly known as the SPREP Convention, and its two protocols, and, with technical legal assistance from the Government of New Zealand, soon the SPREP Convention, accompanied by implementing legislation, will be forwarded to the Palau National Congress for ratification. We do have bilateral arrangements with both Australia and New Zealand whereby our high-school teachers, as well as nurses and medical and health technicians, are accepted for both short- and long-term refresher courses in institutions of those two countries. We also have bilateral grant-aid agreements with Japan whereby the Government of Japan donates construction materials and technical expertise in the building of fisheries dock projects in four of our 16 States.

(Mr. Uherbelau, Special  
Representative Adviser)

We have had visitors from the French Consulate General in Honolulu and from the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Manila, as well as from other official dignitaries from other foreign countries and regional and international organizations, including the World Health Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the South Pacific Commission and the like. They came to assess our needs and offered assistance as appropriate.

The issue of political status is to be commented on last, intentionally, in that little can be added to what was covered in our opening statement. But I feel a word of caution is in order here. The Palauan voters have not rejected the Compact of Free Association as a political status option open to them. Free association clearly has predominated over independence or closer relations, as distinct from freely associated status, with the United States in two of the seven plebiscites when those options were on the ballot. Even the 60.8 per cent result of the last, seventh, plebiscite is an overwhelming majority vote in any referendum when a simple majority is the yardstick for a favourable outcome.

In this connection, and with the permission of the British delegation, allow me to echo its conclusion, which eloquently expresses our sentiments, in stating that

"whatever their views on the precise terms of the Compact and its subsidiary agreements, the majority of Palauans clearly favour the continuation of a close relationship such as free association with the United States".

It is therefore incumbent upon the leadership of the Republic to find a way to reach out to its people and to lead them onward to an internally self-governing nation freely associated with its former trustee and generous mentor, the United States of America.

(Mr. Uherbelau, Special  
Representative Adviser)

Our search for our ultimate future status has been a long and at times arduous one. In the poet Robert Frost's words,

"The woods are lovely, dark and deep ...

And miles to go before I sleep,

And miles to go before I sleep."

Adios, bon voyage and goodbye, Madame President and the staff and members of the Council. I thank you one and all.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I call on Miss Stella Guerra, Assistant Secretary, Department of the Interior.

Ms. GUERRA (Special Adviser): Once again it is time to conclude our deliberations. For my part, I have learned a great deal from the members of the Council, as well as from other speakers, including the petitioners, which will help in making decisions concerning the continued exercise of trusteeship administration in Palau.

Once again I wish to reassure the Council that the Administering Authority is committed to taking its responsibilities very seriously. To that end I should like briefly to summarize some of our developmental programmes and projects which have been committed for this fiscal year and those projects for 1991. I believe that that will address not only some of the concerns of the petitioners but also some of the issues brought up during the general debate earlier this week.

In addition to the \$15.1 million for regular operations this year, 1990, and next, which will include funding for the College of Micronesia and satellite communications, we have the following programmes either in place or being prepared for next year: a road-system repair project budgeted in the amount of \$476,000 under the capital improvements programme; \$980,000 has been set aside for repairs to the Koror-Babelthaup Bridge and \$35,000 for Koror Airai Electrical

(Ms. Guerra, Special Adviser)

Transmission. This is in addition to money that has been made available for the new hospital and renovations to the Palau gaol mentioned in our earlier remarks.

Special projects to meet special needs have also been instituted. As a follow-up to the Guam Accords, we have made \$247,000 available for the setting up of offices for a special prosecutor and a public auditor. An additional \$300,000 has been requested for these programmes for next year.

In continued recognition of our responsibilities to curtail the traffic in controlled substances, we have requested \$400,000 for assistance in drug interdiction and prevention of drug abuse in our 1991 budget. As part of the operations and maintenance programme mentioned in earlier statements, we have set aside \$100,000 to hire a private contractor to evaluate the needs of Palau and develop an action plan. This team has just completed its on-site evaluations.

(Ms. Guerra, Special Adviser)

Two hundred thousand dollars has been requested for the beginning of implementation of the action plan; and \$430,000 has been requested for next year, again for this project of operations and maintenance.

And for several years now, the Department of the Interior has had a technical assistance programme that funds a wide variety of smaller projects which are intended to have a beneficial long-term effect in Palau. I will not list all of them here, but I will be glad to provide a sample.

An example is a \$200,000 grant that has been allocated to the Sisters of Mercy to administer the Palau hospital, including addition of the services of a financial adviser to the hospital.

A \$220,000 grant has been allocated for technical assistance to evaluate the possible privatization of the Palau power plant.

A \$150,000 grant has been made available to the Army Corps of Engineers to provide technical advisory services to Palau; and \$127,000 has been allocated to the provision of computer systems for the Palau hospital and the pension system.

Smaller projects include grants for hiring tax and revenue advisors, law-enforcement training and participation by Palauan students in the very successful "close-up" programme, an educational programme.

These are but a sampling of the technical-assistance grants which we have made to Palau in recent months alone and which fall outside the normal budgetary process. Next year, we estimate, an additional \$800,000 in similar projects will be funded.

Now I should like to touch briefly on the political situation in Palau. As this delegation has stated several times this year, the political future of Palau is up to the people of Palau. They will decide when they will vote again, for what they will vote and under what conditions that vote will be taken. This is their right and their responsibility.

(Ms. Guerra, Special Adviser)

We endorse the remarks of the delegations of the United Kingdom and France to the effect that the people of Palau are highly developed politically. We fully agree with the Trusteeship Council resolution 2183 (LIII) concerning the readiness of all parts of the Trust Territory for complete self-government. We believe that Palau is ready.

In the meantime we are prepared to carry out our administering responsibilities. To this end, as I stated in my opening statement two weeks ago, we are preparing to open an expanded office of the Office of Territorial and International Affairs at Honolulu, which will provide more readily available support facilities for an upgraded presence of the Administering Authority based in Palau. We are heeding the recommendations made by this Council in past years and those of various other agencies, including the United States Congress, which have urged us to play a more active role in guiding and shaping the administration of Palau during the interim period prior to termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. We shall have a resident representative with substantial responsibilities for providing advice and direction to the local government in Palau. This will especially affect the budgetary process. Coupled with the technical assistance projects outlined earlier, this approach should provide the constitutional authorities with a better idea of how to manage their resources and live within their budgetary means.

We also encourage Palau's contact with regional and international organizations, and shall, through our own State Department, facilitate Government-to-Government relations as appropriate.

It is my fervent hope that we will have the opportunity to invite this Council to witness a final act of self-determination in the very near future. In the meantime we shall await the decision of the people of Palau.

(Ms. Guerra, Special Adviser)

Turning now to another area, I should like to say special thanks to the Soviet delegation for their remarks in the general debate on Tuesday. I understand that the timing of the receipt of the annual report in this Council has caused some consternation in past years. This year the earlier delivery of the report permitted Council members a more leisurely perusal. The Administering Authority wishes to assure the Council that in the year to come every effort will be made to see to it that this report is done in the same prompt and comprehensive fashion as it was this year.

We wish also to concur with the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom concerning the long-term cost of some capital investment programmes. We share this concern for the future, and along these lines, we are currently examining several projects with special scrutiny before final approval.

Again, I wish to express my appreciation and that of my delegation for the hospitality of the Council, its members and the Secretariat. I look forward to next year's session, although with mixed emotions, only because circumstances do not let us conclude this session as the final one in the history of the Trusteeship system. I am pleased to assure this Council that in the year to come my office will stand ready to provide any assistance or information required at any time. It has been a pleasure working with the Council, and I thank you.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): As we come again to the closing hours of the Trusteeship Council's session, my delegation would characterize this as an especially informative, constructive and smooth-running session of the Trusteeship Council. I wish, on behalf of the Administering Authority and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, to express our appreciation to you, Madam, as this session's President, to the Secretariat staff, the interpreters, the members of the Trusteeship Council and the petitioners for

(Mr. Wilkinson, United States)

their efforts, useful presentations, commentary, questioning and the discussion which have taken place during this fifty-seventh session of the Council.

As for those of us in the United States delegation participating in these deliberations for the first time, we leave this experience better informed and more committed than ever to working closely with the United Nations, the members of the Trusteeship Council and the people of Palau to advance the Territory along the road to full self-government through self-determination.

The Special Representative of the Republic of Palau spoke in his opening statement of the need for Palau to become economically self-sufficient, to build and diversify its economy through continued development of its infrastructure, increased foreign investment and international treaties and agreements. The United States is in complete accord with the stated goals of the Government of Palau and supports all efforts undertaken by the people of Palau to move towards self-sufficiency. While clearly all obstacles to economic self-sufficiency cannot be tackled simultaneously, we believe that the setting of priorities and the construction of a longer-term strategy necessary for economic development are off to a good start.

Regarding Palau's 6 February plebiscite on the Compact of Free Association, it is important - as others have noted - to remember that, for the seventh time, the Compact was supported by a majority of the voters, even though not by the 75 per cent required for ratification under the Palau Constitution.

We have noted also from the opening statement of the Special Representative of Palau that there are differing views among the Palauan people and their people concerning ways to proceed from here. We wish the people of Palau every success as they consider their options for the future.

(Mr. Wilkinson, United States)

Despite the frustration felt by many at the fact that the plebiscites have not been able to resolve the status of Palau, the fair and open election in February, verified by the Trusteeship Council's Visiting Mission, and the lively discussion concerning Palau's future contributed to the Territory's exercise of democracy, freedom of expression and freedom of choice. Until such time as the people of Palau ratify the Compact in accordance with their own constitutional provisions or resolve their future status in some other fashion, the United States will continue to fulfil its role as Trustee. That role is a rewarding one. It allows us to engage in a very direct way in the process of economic development, to learn from the people of Palau how best to co-operate with them in building a better community and to help foster democratic processes in another part of the globe.

We attach the utmost importance to this role. Assisting in the evolution of the Trust Territory to independent or freely associated status, a process which was formally recognized by this body in 1986, is an obligation which the United States Government undertook from the United Nations in the belief that all peoples share the right of self-determination. The Trusteeship Council has always been a key player in overseeing the ways in which the United States meets this international obligation. The constructive participation of all Council delegations during this session has been of great value to us in our role. We thank the Council for its devotion to its task, both in the past and during this latest and most fruitful session.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of the Administering Authority for the kind words addressed to me. It is now my pleasant duty to thank him for his active contribution to our examination of this report. In particular I should also like to thank those who came from Palau, from so far away, in particular the Special Representative Adviser, Mr. Victor Uherbelau,

(The President)

Mr. Pablo Temol, and the others who took the trouble to come here to meet with us. I also thank the other representatives of Palau who came here either from Palau or from Washington, Mr. Samuel McPhetres and his colleagues. I believe that their contribution was absolutely indispensable to our work and that it has been very constructive, interesting and active. That enabled us in the Council to have a thorough and in-depth discussion, thanks to the various statements and explanations given by the colleagues and the representatives of the Trust Territory. On behalf of the Council I extend my thanks once again to the representatives of Palau for their participation and wish them a good trip home. I should like also to thank the members of the United States delegation who came here from Washington.

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): We turn now to the next item on our agenda - an important item - the report of the Drafting Committee, which has been issued in document T/L.1276. I call upon the representative of France to introduce the report.

Mr. MENAT (France) (interpretation from French): The report of the Drafting Committee, appointed on 29 May 1990 by the Council, was issued this morning as a document of the Trusteeship Council. The Drafting Committee held one meeting and then conducted consultations with members of the Council. Those consultations continued until today, as is indicated in the report. The report also indicates that the Drafting Committee decided to forward to the Council for its consideration draft conclusions and recommendations, which are annexed to the report.

As usual, there are three parts to the report.

The first section deals with political advancement, section A. I would draw attention to paragraph 1. Following consultations, which were continued until this

(Mr. Menat, France)

morning, the members of the Drafting Committee would like to suggest a change in the text. The word "recalls" would be replaced by the word "notes".

Paragraph 2 is traditionally devoted to consideration of the political situation in the Territory. It takes due account of the developments described during the session. It indicates that a plebiscite was held on 6 February in Palau and it notes the results and the decisions taken by the Government of Palau and by the Administering Authority.

Section B deals with economic, social and educational advancement. Paragraphs 3 and 4 are general in nature and are similar to paragraphs in last year's report.

Paragraphs 5 and 6 take up concerns expressed by the Government of Palau on the economic development and self-sufficiency of the Territory and note recent progress in this area. Paragraph 6 refers to measures taken by the Administering Authority in various areas: fisheries, the campaign against drug trafficking and abuse, public health and safety and the operation and maintenance of public-works facilities. The paragraph suggests to the Trusteeship Council that it might express the hope that further progress will be made in those fields.

The third section of the report deals with general considerations. As was done last year, we suggest that the Council note with satisfaction the assurances given by the Administering Authority, which have been given once again today, that it will continue to fulfil its responsibilities under the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I thank the representative of France for his statement on the draft conclusions and recommendations in document T/L.1276. I believe that the document was made available only this morning, so there is a little delay in our work, given that the consultations

(The President)

lasted a day and a half. Are all members of the Council agreed that we should waive rule 57 of the rules of procedure, which specifies that drafts should be circulated to members 24 hours in advance of the meeting at which they are to be considered?

If I hear no objection, I shall take it that the Council is ready to consider the report today and to take a decision on it.

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): Does any member wish to comment on the draft report introduced by the French representative, document T/L.1276, as orally amended, before the Council takes a decision on it?

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It is my understanding that we are now about to take a decision on the draft conclusions and recommendations, and I should therefore like to say a few words in explanation of vote before the voting.

First, I cannot fail to note as a positive point that the atmosphere of the Trusteeship Council at this session has been such that broader consultations have taken place. Here we would pay tribute to the efforts made during consultations and express the hope that this practice will be broadened and strengthened in the future, thereby assisting us to reach mutually acceptable decisions.

In explanation of my delegation's vote on the draft conclusions and recommendations to be included in the Trusteeship Council's report on its fifty-seventh session, document T/L.1276, the Soviet delegation wishes to state the following: Along with the provisions that do not elicit any comment on our part, the draft does, we feel, have some obvious shortcomings. I am referring to the linkage with Trusteeship Council resolution 2183 (LIII) of 28 May 1986. As the Soviet delegation has frequently noted, there are no grounds for that linkage. The drafting of a mutually acceptable text was apparently hampered by stereotypes, and if we cannot abandon them it will be difficult for us to be successful in our work here. That is not a reproach directed against any one, but, rather, an appeal to search for mutually acceptable decisions and to overcome outmoded stereotypes in this area as well.

The Soviet delegation will abstain in the vote on the draft conclusions and recommendations. Whatever the Trusteeship Council's resolution may say, according

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

to the United Nations Charter the status of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands can be changed only by a decision of the Security Council. That is a position of principle, and we wish to reaffirm it.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I am sure that the Council will bear the Soviet representative's statement in mind in the course of its future work.

If there are no further comments, I shall now put the draft conclusions and recommendations contained in the annex to the report of the Drafting Committee, as orally revised, (T/L.1276) to a vote.

The draft conclusions and recommendations, as orally revised, were adopted by 4 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The draft conclusions and recommendations we have just approved will constitute Part II of the Council's report to the Security Council. The first part of the report will contain an overview of our deliberations, prepared by the Secretariat, in accordance with customary practice.

I shall now call upon representatives who wish to make statements following the voting.

Mr. DING Yuanhong (China) (interpretation from Chinese): The Chinese delegation voted in favour of the draft conclusions and recommendations in the report of the Drafting Committee on the basis of its support for the principle of the Palaun people's right to self-determination. As for Palau's future political status, a solution should be found based on full respect for the wishes of the Palauan people themselves.

We have heard the statements by the representatives of the Administering Authority, and we hope that the Administering Authority will strictly fulfil the

(Mr. Ding Yuanhong, China)

responsibilities incumbent upon it under the United Nations Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement in such a way that the Palauan people will be able to achieve self-determination at an early date.

In view of the concerns expressed during our discussions over the future establishment of military installations in Palau, the Chinese delegation is of the opinion that there is a need for a serious consideration of that matter.

Mr. WILKINSON (United States of America): In explanation of vote, I should like first to recall and praise the efforts made by the Drafting Committee members to achieve a text that might have been adopted with the full support of all members of the Council. I regret that it was not possible at the end of the day to have such a text, and I should like to reassert my delegation's strong belief that the reference to resolution 2183 (LIII) of 28 May 1986 is entirely appropriate, indeed necessary, for a proper set of conclusions and recommendations on this subject.

I look forward to working closely with all delegations on the Council, looking ahead to future sessions of the Council, to strive for mutually acceptable answers to all these questions.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): The Council has thus concluded its consideration of its conclusions and recommendations.

ATTAINMENT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE BY THE TRUST TERRITORIES (TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1369 (XVII) AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1413 (XIV)) AND THE SITUATION IN THE TRUST TERRITORIES WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 1514 (XV) AND 44/101) (continued)

CO-OPERATION WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES (GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 1654 (XVI)) (continued)

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): As agreed by members of the Council at our 1678th meeting, held on 24 May 1990, the Council will consider agenda items 11 and 12 jointly.

If no member wishes to comment on these agenda items, I suggest that the Council decide to draw the attention of the Security Council to the Trusteeship Council's deliberations at its fifty-seventh session concerning the attainment, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, and in particular Article 83, of self-government or independence by the Trust Territory.

It was so decided.

## SUSPENSION OF THE SESSION

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): In conformity with the procedure adopted at the Council's preceding sessions, we shall now suspend the fifty-seventh session and meet in resumed session, probably in the autumn, to consider the draft report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council. Members will, of course, be informed of the precise date as early as possible.

As has been our practice in previous years, I shall ask the Secretariat to prepare a draft text of Part I of our report to the Security Council. When completed, the President will hold informal consultations with delegations before the formal resumption of our session on the entire report of the Trusteeship Council, specifically on the first part, since the second part has just been adopted.

I hope delegations will now permit me to make some comments. I wish first of all to thank all delegations for their most active contribution to our work. For my part, I was very pleased to work with you all. I learned a great deal about the situation in Palau, and about the problems of administering a Trust Territory: political, economic, social, institutional, financial and legal problems. Now, all I need is a visit to the country itself; this session has given me the appetite to visit one of the "seven underwater wonders of the world". I do not know whether I shall have a chance to visit the Territory, but I should certainly like to.

I thank all participants for their co-operation. Everything proceeded in a most harmonious manner and in a climate that has already been described by some representatives as constructive. This is important from the standpoint of the Council's future work, and I fully echo representatives who have stressed the need to take advantage of this new atmosphere to make gradual progress towards harmonizing our views and even perhaps towards a co-ordinated and harmonious

(The President)

consideration of all the problems of administering the Palau Trust Territory. I believe that one day we shall succeed in further merging our points of view.

I thank the specialized agencies which participated in our work. And I cannot fail to thank the Secretariat staff for its most important participation - without them we could do nothing - including the interpreters, translators, other Conference Services staff and all those who work behind the scenes to help us work in good conditions.

Let me also greet the other participating delegations - those of Fiji and of Papua New Guinea - and everyone else who helped me to ensure that our work took place in a good atmosphere.

For me personally, this has been a most rewarding experience, and I convey my personal thanks to one and all.

I declare the fifty-seventh session of the Trusteeship Council suspended.

The meeting rose at 12 noon.