



Trusteeship Council

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Fifty-sixth session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE SIXTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-NINTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 25 May 1989, at 10.30 a.m.

President: Mr. BIRCH (United Kingdom)

- 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)
- Co-operation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolutions 2106 B (XX) and 43/96)
- Second Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolutions 3057 (XXVIII) and 43/91)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.45 a.m.

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)

Mr. ROSENSTOCK (United States of America): At last Friday's meeting, several points were raised for which the Administering Authority promised to obtain clarification through further checking. I should now like to provide that clarification.

The first concerns the matter of the missing line in the annual report, as noted by the representative of the Soviet Union. We thank the Soviet delegation for calling that error to our attention. The first two sentences on page 12, second column, should read as follows:

"The Immigration and Customs Division is responsible for enforcement of Palau's laws and regulations relating to immigration. This Division currently employs six immigration officers, which is sufficient to meet current immigration control needs."

The representative of the United Kingdom requested that we verify that a request from the Chief Justice of the Palau Supreme Court concerning technical assistance for Palauan efforts to complete a land survey had been received by the Administering Authority. We have verified that the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, sent two land experts to Palau several years ago to assist the Palauan land authorities in computerizing land records. They have completed the entering of Palauan and Japanese records, using a computer programme developed specifically for their needs. In response to a request for additional assistance from the Palauan authorities, those same experts will go again to Palau to assist in the surveying and demarcation of the exclusive economic zone and territorial waters of the Republic of Palau. At the same time they will reassess

(Mr. Rosenstock, United States)

the needs of the Land Office for additional surveying and other relevant projects and make appropriate recommendations for meeting the needs of the Government of Palau.

The representative of the Soviet Union noted a discrepancy in the statistics relating to infant mortality in several entries in our annual report. We have verified with sources in Palau that the figure given in table 1 of the Statistical Annex, that is, 25.3 per 1,000, is the correct figure for fiscal year 1988, the reporting year. The other two entries concern the data for 1987. Noting the increase from 19 to 23 per 1,000, we should like to refer to the comments made on that subject by the representative of France, who called attention to the fact that, in view of the very small real numbers involved, even an increase of 1 over the previous year would skew the statistics substantially. We do not believe that the difference between 1987 and 1988 has any significant implications.

GENERAL DEBATE

Mr. SMITH (United Kingdom): The central objective of the International Trusteeship System over the years has been to bring the inhabitants of the Trust Territories to a point where they are ready to govern themselves. Three years ago, the Trusteeship Council acknowledged that the people of the last remaining Trust Territory, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, had reached that point. In resolution 2183 (LIII), the Council recognized that the peoples of Micronesia had freely exercised their right to self-determination and had chosen either free association with the United States or commonwealth status. That fact is as true today as it was then.

(Mr. Smith, United Kingdom)

New status arrangements for the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Northern Marianas were announced by the Administering Authority in October and November 1986. The question of Palau's future status remains unresolved, for reasons we have discussed at length in this Council. However we note with satisfaction that the inhabitants of each of the four entities continue to govern themselves and to take responsibility for their own affairs. That is as it should be.

Let me return to the question of Palau. My delegation is grateful to all those, both officials and others, who came from Palau to address the Council in the last two weeks. I personally also welcomed the opportunity to participate in the recent Visiting Mission to Palau and to assist the Council in obtaining first-hand, up-to-date information about the situation there. On the political front, the Mission's conclusion - that free association with the United States remains the preference of the overwhelming majority of the people of Palau - is something about which there can be no doubt. It was confirmed, for example, by the remarks of Vice-President Nakamura himself early in the session. In a joint statement made on behalf of the leadership of Palau he made clear that, although a number of grievances remain, a strong and healthy relationship with the United States remains the goal of the people of Palau.

We welcome the formation of the Commission on Future Palau/United States Relations, a body drawn from a wide cross-section of Palauan society. We wish them well in their efforts, and hope that their current negotiations with the United States authorities will lead to a successful and mutually acceptable outcome.

During our current session a number of Palauan speakers have complained about the level of economic development and social progress achieved in Palau. Similar complaints were heard by the Visiting Mission. Some of them may be justified, some may not. It is natural that, like the inhabitants of other countries, the people

(Mr. Smith, United Kingdom)

of Palau should aspire to improve their standard of living. Indeed had we invited people from any developing or even developed country to address the Council we might well have heard similar concerns expressed about such problems as transportation, infrastructure and health care; they are the kind of concerns shared by citizens of New York, Moscow and London. For in no country can the process of economic, social and educational advancement ever be described as complete. One can always advance further. But in the case of a Trust Territory the process of development must be seen in the context of the parallel process of political advancement. Under the Trusteeship System the people of a Trust Territory should be encouraged and equipped to tackle such matters themselves. There is no question but that the people of Palau are ready to do just that. Through its efforts under the Trusteeship, and through the assistance which will continue to be provided under the proposed new status arrangements, the Administering Authority has provided Palau with an ample foundation on which to build. We look forward to seeing the results.

As regards the Northern Mariana Islands, we listened with attention to the petitions delivered by their representatives last week. We also welcomed the assurance of the Administering Authority that consultations under section 902 of the Commonwealth Covenant are continuing. We hope that those consultations will lead to a resolution of the unfortunate differences which have arisen.

It is often claimed that the people of Micronesia have not been allowed to make a free choice as to their future political status. It seems to us that such claims are simply untrue. The new status arrangements are the product of lengthy negotiations over the last 20 years. During that time the people of Micronesia could have chosen whatever status they wished - be it independence, integration with the United States, or a relationship with some other State. Yet of all the options open, they have chosen arrangements which strike a balance between their

(Mr. Smith, United Kingdom)

wish to govern their own affairs and their desire for the assistance and protection of a major Power in areas such as security and defence, where they are ill-equipped to provide for themselves. We should support their free choice, not seek to interfere with its fulfilment.

It is also claimed that the people of Micronesia have been divided into four entities against their will in order - so the argument goes - to weaken them and to increase their dependence on the United States. This again is quite untrue. The Administering Authority tried for some years to create a single State of Micronesia. But in the course of the future-status negotiations, and the popular plebiscites which followed, it became clear that this was not acceptable to the different peoples of the Trust Territory. The division of the Territory into four separate entities - in accordance with the wishes of population - is testimony to the commitment of the Administering Authority to democracy, not evidence of some fragmentation plan.

Finally let me turn to the allegation often made that the new status arrangements are part of a United States scheme to turn the Trust Territory into a military installation and a nuclear base. As we have made clear before in this Chamber, such allegations make no sense. For more than 40 years, the United States has enjoyed more military rights over the Trust Territory under the Trusteeship Agreement than are provided for by the new status arrangements. If the United States had wanted to create a military base in Palau, for example, would it not have done so long ago? The fact is that under the new arrangements the United States is taking on the responsibility to defend the four Micronesian entities. It is quite natural that such responsibility should carry with it certain options, among them the right to use land for military purposes and to transit Micronesia with military vessels and aircraft. Such rights are necessary

(Mr. Smith, United Kingdom)

for the United States to carry out its defence obligations. But they are intended to protect the people of Micronesia, not to threaten them or anyone else.

It is unfortunate that extraneous issues have so often been allowed to cloud consideration of the situation in Micronesia. The peoples of Micronesia have taken their own decisions on their future political status, freely, openly, fully understanding the issues and aware of the alternatives. The United Kingdom, as a member of the Trusteeship Council, is committed to defending their right to self-determination, without interference from outside.

Mr. YU Mengjia (China) (interpretation from Chinese): I am very pleased to make a statement in the general debate at the fifty-sixth session of the Trusteeship Council. In the past two weeks we have considered the 1988 annual report of the Administering Authority for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the United Nations Visiting Mission's report on Palau, as well as many oral and written petitions. Thanks to this useful work, the information relating to the Trust Territory has been further clarified and substantiated. This is of help not only to the Council members in better understanding the current state of affairs in the Trust Territory but also to the Council in correctly and fully implementing the mandate entrusted to it by the United Nations Charter.

(Mr. Yu Mengjia, China)

According to the Charter, the basic objectives of the International Trusteeship System are to further international peace and security and to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence. The Charter also lays down that the people in Trust Territories should freely choose their political future by exercising the right to self-determination. On behalf of the Chinese delegation, I express our readiness to contribute our share to the fulfilment of those tasks, in keeping with the Charter.

We are glad to see that over the years, under the mandate of the International Trusteeship System, the inhabitants of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands have achieved certain progress in the political, economic, social and educational fields of their respective communities. On the other hand, judging by the oral and written petitions we have received at this session, there are still many problems that call for improvement. The local inhabitants are not quite satisfied with the work of the Administering Authority, particularly in the area of economic development, where a good deal more attention seems necessary if the expectations of the population are to be met. There are quite a few other problems and difficulties with respect to public health, education and housing. The lack of proper infrastructure is acute.

It is our hope that the Administering Authority will seriously consider the opinions of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory. Pending fulfilment of the Trusteeship Agreement, it should discharge fully its obligations to the Trust Territory, meet the local people's aspirations and create the necessary conditions for the realization of their self-determination and independent development.

Mr. GAUSSOT (France) (interpretation from French): I wish first to take this opportunity to stress how happy my country is to see the delegation of the People's Republic of China taking its place in the Council, a place that rightfully belongs to it as a permanent member of the Security Council. China's participation in our work is clearly a valuable contribution to the work of our Council.

I should also like to welcome and thank the representatives of the Trust Territory, who, once again, have travelled a long way to state their views and hopes, and sometimes their concerns.

At the fifty-fourth session of the Council, in May 1987, my delegation expressed the wish that there might be rapid implementation, in keeping with the Charter, of the recommendation in resolution 2183 (LIII) of 1986, so that the four parts of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands might finally be able fully to enjoy the status of independence or self-government that each had chosen. Two years have passed since then, and unfortunately we must note that the necessary conditions for the attainment of that goal have still not been achieved.

I shall not go into detail on the reasons for that situation. Everyone knows them. The institutional situation of the Territory has been somewhat blocked because the Compact of Free Association between the United States of America and Palau has not yet entered into force, not having been approved in accordance with the conditions provided for by the Constitution of Palau.

Fortunately, however, the clock of history has not stopped. Since the Council's last regular session significant progress has been made in the Trust Territory - in the political, economic and social fields and in the area of education. The Administering Authority's report has given us some useful information about Palau in this respect. But this year we also have the detailed report of the Visiting Mission, which, in accordance with resolution 2190 (S-XIX), adopted by the Council on 17 March at its nineteenth special session, went to Palau

(Mr. Gaussot, France)

last month. Having taken part in that Mission, the first of its kind to the Territory since 1985, I was able to see just how much had been done in many fields through the joint efforts of the Administering Authority, the local authorities and the people of the Territory.

However, we should not overlook the difficulties that still exist. The petitioners who have made statements in the Council have gone into them at some length. Some did so in a way that my delegation did not always find perfectly objective. But it is only fair to recognize - and my recent visit to the Territory leaves me in no doubt about this - that the citizens of Palau are genuinely concerned about their future, which still remains uncertain.

In brief, the remarkable progress achieved in the archipelago - whether in the democratic character of local institutions, the standard of living of the people or the progress made in education - has not yet succeeded in eliminating certain shortcomings, the main effect of which has been to keep Palau relatively dependent on outside aid.

My delegation very much hopes that the in-depth dialogue now going on between the leaders of Palau and the Administering Authority will on the one hand facilitate a resolution of the problems that still exist in that regard and on the other hand expedite the entry into force of the status of free association to which the great majority of Palauans clearly remain committed.

Until that goal is achieved, and as long as the Trusteeship Agreement remains in force, it is of course important that the Administering Authority continue to discharge its obligations and responsibilities, as it has done to date. That is why we noted with satisfaction the renewed assurances that the delegation of the United States gave us on that matter.

(Mr. Gaussot, France)

Similarly, we welcomed the news that the bilateral discussions between the United States and the Northern Marianas under section 902 of the agreement governing their relations are to be resumed shortly in Washington. It is through such dialogue that the difficulties that have arisen over the interpretation of the agreements defining the new status of the Northern Marianas can and must be resolved.

More generally, I wish in conclusion to express again the hope that very soon, in accordance with the Charter, the obstacles that still prevent the peoples of the Trust Territory from fully realizing their aspirations, which they have expressed in the free exercise of their right to self-determination, will be overcome.

Mr. BYKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation has carefully studied the report of the Administering Authority on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, covering the period from 1 October 1987 to 30 September 1988, and the statements by the representative of the United States relating to that report.

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

We have listened attentively to statements by petitioners from Micronesia and by petitioners who are United States citizens, and we have also studied the written petitions submitted to the Council. We have analysed other documents and materials. All of that has led us to draw clear conclusions about the real situation prevailing in and around Micronesia as a result of the activities of the Administering Authority.

At the outset, I would like to make one general observation with regard to the report submitted by the Administering Authority. It is quite obvious that, aside from the familiar and summary information it habitually contains about the climate, flora and fauna of the region, the composition of the Trust Territory and the ethnic and language factors there, the report does not provide any information whatsoever about the steps taken by the Administering Authority during the reporting period to promote, throughout the whole of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the implementation of article 1 of the 1947 Trusteeship Agreement between the United Nations Security Council and the United States of America, which sets forth the Administering Authority's obligations under Article 76 of the United Nations Charter. That is an obvious lacuna in the report.

We are grateful to the delegation of the Administering Authority for the clarifications it has provided here with respect to several questions. However, in our view, the clarifications vouchsafed by the Administering Authority with regard to many of the questions raised have been very general in nature and did not help us fill in the lacunae I have just mentioned. Many of the questions asked in the course of Council meetings were not answered with sufficiently full and complete information. I should therefore like to express the hope that in the future - and in its report on the Trust Territory to the Trusteeship Council at its next session - the Administering Authority will find itself in a position to furnish

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

sufficiently complete information and to give due attention to the questions raised at this session and to the comments that have been made.

The fundamental tasks of the Trusteeship System, as formulated in the United Nations Charter, are to further international peace and security and to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence. They also include encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. When it was given a mandate by the United Nations Security Council for a temporary administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Administering Authority thereby assumed the relevant obligations contained in the Charter and a Trusteeship Agreement was entered into between the United States of America and the Security Council in 1947.

To what extent have those obligations been met today? In our view, the situation that has developed during the United States administration of the Trust Territory gives us some justification for concluding that the Administering Authority's policy and actions have not been consonant with the international obligations it assumed. The goals of trusteeship with regard to the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the Territory still remain far from achievement. As regards the progressive economic development of the Territory, not much has really been done that would have enhanced the well-being of the population. It has already been pointed out that the infrastructure of the Trust Territory has eroded and that many traditional areas of the economy have been lost. The self-sufficiency of the Territory has been weakened, and such phenomena as alcoholism and crime have appeared and are on the increase. All of this has had an adverse effect on the life of the inhabitants.

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

The economic and social base established in the Trust Territory has led to dependence on the United States and has been used to exert pressure on the inhabitants and on local authorities. The Administering Authority has taken actions that violate the territorial integrity of the Trust Territory, and the unity of a single Territory has been shattered into separate entities imposed on the inhabitants under the guise of various neocolonialist statuses. Thus, a situation has been created in which the people of Micronesia are actually being hindered from realizing their inalienable rights to genuine self-determination, freedom, independence and territorial integrity. The inhabitants of the Trust Territory have thus been deprived of the conditions necessary for a genuine implementation of their sovereign right to choose for themselves, free from any outside interference whatsoever.

The Administering Authority's policy of dismembering and annexing the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is counter to the basic national interests of the Micronesian people. It is a violation of the United Nations Charter and of the Trusteeship Agreement and is also counter to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. It is quite clear that the so-called Compact of Free Association and the commonwealth status imposed upon the Micronesian people are illegal and counter to international law. As a consequence, they cannot be accepted as binding.

An illustration: at the last session of the Trusteeship Council and at the present session as well, the representatives of the Northern Mariana Islands severely criticized the actions of the Administering Authority. They stated in the Council that the self-government they had been promised had not been granted and that the population of the Islands had been disappointed and deceived. They said that the Territory had in fact been transformed into a colony of the United

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

States. A direct appeal was made to the Trusteeship Council to act in the interests of the population of the Islands and not to allow the Trusteeship Agreement to be terminated. The Administering Authority is also bypassing provisions in force in such regions of the Trust Territory as the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. The representative of the Administering Authority has not furnished information to the Trusteeship Council on that matter, something it is required to do under the United Nations Charter.

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

Naturally, the world community cannot remain indifferent to these highly disquieting actions by the Administering Authority, which is responsible for administering the Trust Territory on behalf of the United Nations. The administration of the strategic Territory of Micronesia as a whole should, to the extent possible, promote support for international peace and security in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter. Instead, the Administering Authority has constantly been trying to transform the Trust Territory into a strategic and military launching pad in the Western Pacific.

True, the representative of the Administering Authority says it has no plans to use Micronesia for military purposes. That may be true, but how can those assertions be reconciled with the provisions of the military articles in the so-called Compact, and in other agreements imposed on the dismembered parts of Micronesia? How do such assertions square with the insistence with which the Administering Authority has been trying to achieve a guaranteed eternal right to deploy nuclear weapons and other military resources in Micronesia? It is precisely to that end that the inhabitants of Palau are subjected to mass pressure, as exemplified by the endless series of referendums that have been held in order to overcome the resistance of the opponents of such a solution.

It should be obvious to any objective observer of the situation in Micronesia that the actions of the Administering Authority do not match the general trend of developments in international relations towards the formation of a world-wide political and legal system based on unquestioned respect for freedom of choice and equal rights for all peoples. The status of Micronesia must in no case become dependent on the will and unilateral actions of the Administering Authority.

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

The effort to shirk the obligation of submitting the necessary information on the situation in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands is illegal and unacceptable; it is designed to limit or circumvent United Nations control over the Trust Territory. Despite the unilateral actions of the Administering Authority, the United Nations bears responsibility for Micronesia until such time as all the requirements of the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement have been fulfilled.

The Soviet delegation wishes to stress that under the Charter the Security Council alone - and no other United Nations body, still less the Administering Authority - has the right unilaterally to alter the status of the Trust Territory or terminate the Trusteeship Agreement, which was approved by the Security Council. Until the Security Council takes such a decision, the Administering Authority still has the duty to present regular reports to the United Nations on the situation throughout the Territory of Micronesia. The representatives of the Micronesian people can continue to turn to the United Nations for the protection of their rights and interests.

Positive processes taking place in the world have already led to a radical improvement in the international situation. The entire international community has a deep interest in promoting this positive development in all areas, but the efforts of all States will be required if there is to be further progress towards the establishment of a secure, nuclear-free world - a world without violence and with justice for all.

There is a fundamental need for all States to be guided in their actions by the principles of the new political thinking. In that spirit, there should be a productive dialogue in the Trusteeship Council, together with joint efforts to achieve harmonious decisions. In our view, there is a solid legal basis for this to happen: the United Nations Charter, the Trusteeship Agreement and the

(Mr. Bykov, USSR)

Declaration on Decolonization; we also have a common interest in the triumph of international law.

In conclusion, the Soviet delegation expresses the hope that, through the joint efforts of all, such an approach will become common practice in the work of the Trusteeship Council.

The PRESIDENT: As there are no further names on the list of speakers, we will resume the general discussion at our next meeting.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
(General Assembly resolutions 2106 B (XX) and 43/96)

SECOND DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION (General Assembly resolutions 3057 (XXVIII) and 43/91)

Mr. GRIGUTIS (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Trusteeship Council is now discussing the two agenda items "Co-operation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination" and "Second Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination".

The work of the United Nations on the problem of combating racial discrimination occupies a particular place. The efforts of many States Members of the United Nations went into the preparation and adoption of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid. Work is under way to draw up a programme of action for the Second Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination at the national, regional and international levels. Many decisions have been taken by the United Nations, including General Assembly resolution 43/91. These documents constitute a good international legal basis for the struggle for the complete elimination of racial discrimination and racism.

The Soviet Union fully supports the work of the United Nations in that field and advocates the development and strengthening of co-operation between all States and peoples on the problem. The basis for such co-operation has been laid in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. According to Article 73 of the Charter, members of the United Nations which have or assume responsibilities for the administration of territories whose peoples have not yet attained a full measure of self-government recognize the principle that the interests of the inhabitants of these territories are paramount, and accept as a sacred trust the obligation to promote to the utmost, within the system of international peace and security established by the Charter, the well-being of the inhabitants of those territories.

(Mr. Grigutis, USSR)

In keeping with Article 76 of the Charter, one of the tasks of the Trusteeship System is to encourage respect for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion. In fulfilment of that task, the Administering Authority has the responsibility to prevent racial discrimination in Micronesia as well. In that regard, the Soviet delegation deems it necessary to draw the Council's attention to the fact that, in accordance with the provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination shall receive copies of the petitions from, and submit expressions of opinion and recommendations on these petitions to, the competent bodies of the United Nations. In accordance with the same article, the Committee shall receive from the competent bodies of the United Nations copies of the reports concerning the legislative, judicial, administrative or other measures directly related to the principles and objectives of the Convention applied by the administering Powers within the Territories, and shall express opinions and make recommendations to those bodies.

The Trusteeship Council has that kind of information with regard to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and should have given it to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The Committee includes in its report to the General Assembly a summary of petitions and reports received from United Nations bodies, as well as the views and recommendations of the Committee concerned with these petitions and reports. The Trusteeship Council, which in accordance with the Charter has responsibilities conferred by the Security Council with relation to the economic, social and educational development of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, should actively participate in the work of the international community in the area of eliminating racism and racial discrimination, particularly through the

(Mr. Grigutis, USSR)

implementation of the programmes of the Second Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

The question is: To what extent has the Administering Authority discharged its responsibilities to the Trusteeship Council? The Soviet delegation is forced to state that, as a result of the position of the Administering Authority supported by some Council members, the Trusteeship Council is in fact on the sidelines of United Nations measures being taken within the Second Decade. The report of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination was submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-third session. At the thirty-sixth session of the Committee, the Secretary-General was informed of a decision taken by the Trusteeship Council at its fifty-fifth session under article 15 of the Convention. Please note that at its meeting on 26 May 1988, the Trusteeship Council considered the question of co-operation with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination as well as on the Second Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, and decided to "take note" of the statements made by some members on these agenda items.

The Soviet delegation views the opinions and recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination as justified, and believes that the Trusteeship Council should co-operate with that Committee and give it all available information, including petitions, information and communications regarding the situation in the Territory and the exercise of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the people in the Trust Territory.

In discussing these matters, we note that the Trusteeship Council has so far simply taken note of statements made by members and has done nothing else about the opinions expressed. The Soviet delegation believes that the Trusteeship Council should, in future, take the necessary steps as regards the appeal made at the forty-third session of the General Assembly to all Governments to take an active

(Mr. Grigutis, USSR)

part in implementing the programmes of the Second Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

In the Soviet delegation's view, the first evidence of co-operation between the Trusteeship Council and other bodies with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination would be for the Council to invite representatives of that Committee to meetings of the Trusteeship Council and to give the Committee full documentation on the situation with regard to the civil, social, economic, political and cultural rights of the people of the Territory, as well as information concerning developments with regard to the constitutional process that has often been requested by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The PRESIDENT: If there are no further comments on these agenda items, and if there is no objection, I suggest that the Council decide to take note of the statement made at this meeting.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 11.40 a.m.