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TRUSTEESHIP
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JUL 23 1985



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GENERAL

T/PV.1598
15 July 1985

ENGLISH

UN/5A.30.11.1.1

Fifty-second Session

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FIFTEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-EIGHTH MEETING

Held at United Nations Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 11 June 1985, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. MAXEY (United Kingdom)

- Adoption of the report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council (Security Council resolution 70 (1949))
- Closure of the session

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

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL (Security Council resolution 70 (1949))

The PRESIDENT: As members will recall, on 7 June this year the Trusteeship Council decided, in conformity with the procedure adopted at previous sessions of the Council, to suspend meetings and to meet again later in resumed session to consider the Council's draft report to the Security Council. The draft report was circulated on 27 June, and members of the Council have accordingly had time to study it. The purpose of this meeting, therefore, is to give final consideration to the report and to adopt it.

As members will have seen, Part I of the report is entitled "Organization and Activities of the Trusteeship Council". In completing that part of the report the Secretariat has followed the procedure adopted in previous years: that is to say, it has based itself closely on the official verbatim records of the Council's meetings during the current session.

Members of the Council will also note that Part II of the report contains the Council's conclusions and recommendations, as adopted by the Council on 7 June.

Does any member wish to comment on the draft report before us?

Mr. OLEANDROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation has already expressed its criticism of the Administering Authority's report. At past meetings of this session of the Council we assessed the problems of Micronesia, and we have expressed our objections to the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the majority of the Trusteeship Council, which, as is known, consists of three Western Powers.

We emphasized that the conclusions and recommendations contained in the draft report of the Trusteeship Council do not reflect the opinions of the Soviet delegation and are aimed at supporting the annexationist policy of the Administering Authority in Micronesia, a policy that is contradictory to the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the United Nations Charter and the vital interests of the people of Micronesia.

(Mr. Oleandrov, USSR)

It must be said that since the last meeting of the Trusteeship Council the press has reported on the tense situation prevailing in Palau and the assassination of President Remeliik. The Soviet delegation regrets this and joins in the condolences expressed in that regard. The press has reported also on the discontent shown in other parts of Micronesia over the consideration of the Compacts in the United States Congress, where new attempts are being made to infringe even more on the rights and legitimate interests of the people of Micronesia. All this shows the unsatisfactory situation in Micronesia.

The United States is trying to impose a neo-colonialist régime on the Micronesians. Yet the conclusions and recommendations, which should be the most important part of the Trusteeship Council's report, simply ignore this fact. For that reason the Soviet delegation voted against the conclusions and recommendations and accordingly will vote against the report as a whole.

Mr. BADER (United States of America): My delegation would like to express its profound sorrow and shock at the death of President Remeliik of Palau. We wish to extend our condolences to his family and to the new President of Palau, Mr. Oiterong, and to the people of Palau. There is perhaps a small silver lining in this time of tragedy for Palau to see the transition of power proceeding smoothly in line with Palau's Constitution and traditions.

Concerning Ambassador Oleandrov's statement, I should like to thank him for his brevity. I see no need at this or any stage to respond further to the allegations regarding neo-colonialism and annexation in the Territory, to which we have responded repeatedly throughout this session.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now put to the vote the draft report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council.

The draft report was adopted by 3 votes to 1.

The PRESIDENT: I shall now call on those representatives wishing to speak in explanation of vote.

Mr. ROCHER (France) (interpretation from French): We do not live in a perfect world; otherwise, the work of the members of the missions to the United Nations would be extremely simple: there would be no reason for their existence. But we are drawing close to perfection since this report has just been adopted unanimously, apart from one vote. I am very pleased at this, because this report entirely reflects both the discussions that took place in the Council and the concerns and hopes the various people who spoke here.

(Mr. Rocher, France)

We should, I think, express our appreciation of the work that has been done, because the final goal of the Council is surely above all consideration of the interests of the people of the Territory. This, I think, is what we try to do when we listen attentively to all persons who have spoken here on all subjects, be it politics, economics, social matters, the environment, education or cultural affairs. After all, this is the mandate given to our Council, whose duty it is to lend an ear to the people of Micronesia. I am convinced that it is this concern exclusively for the interests of that people that has guided all delegations, which, without any ulterior motives, have given their full attention to the discussions in this Council. The forthcoming visit is renewed evidence of our interest in the Territory.

My delegation would like to express its sincere thanks, especially to the Trusteeship Council's secretariat for its drafting, understanding and patience, without which this report would not be what it is. I also thank delegations for their co-operation.

Last but not least, I could not remain silent about the great skill with which Ambassador Maxey has presided over our debates. Mr. President, you have been both flexible and understanding; you have also been able in your attitude to remind us that patience and courtesy are qualities that are not so rare as we sometimes imagine them to be.

Mr. BADER (United States of America): I should like to join Mr. Rocher of the French delegation in expressing great admiration for the work of the Secretariat and, in particular, of Mr. Abebe, whose talents and knowledge of Micronesia are second to none, for their preparation of the report and their handling of this session. In addition, I should like to echo the words of Mr. Rocher concerning the pleasure that he has had in working with the other delegations here. The Trusteeship Council is a rare body in the United Nations. There is an atmosphere of amity and comradery within this group that other organs could emulate.

Lastly, Mr. President, I should like to thank you in particular for the extraordinary manner in which these proceedings have been conducted. You have filled admirably the large shoes left by your predecessor, Ambassador Margetson, and we thank you for this.

Mr. WATT (United Kingdom): Mr. President, may I add my delegation's thanks to the words of appreciation already expressed by the representatives of France and the United States for the excellent work of the Secretariat in compiling the report we have before us and in handling the present session. We are indebted to them for the thoroughness and professionalism with which they have once again performed their tasks.

I take this opportunity also to express our shock at the murder of President Remeliik of Palau and to extend our sincere condolences both to his family and to the people of Palau on their sudden and grievous loss.

Mr. OLEANDROV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation also would like to express its gratitude to you, Mr. President, for your flexible and skilful guidance of this session of the Trusteeship Council which enabled us to overcome to the satisfaction of all members of the Council certain difficulties that arose at this session. Our gratitude goes also to the other delegations for their business-like co-operation during the work of this session, as well as to the members of the Secretariat for the great professional skill they showed at this session's work, including the interpreters, who did their jobs very well.

The PRESIDENT: I am grateful to all members of the Council for the kind things they have said about my presidency.

I regret that there has not been greater unanimity in the Council this year than previously, but there has been, I have found, an atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect which, I think colleagues will agree, is something for which we should be very glad. I very much echo Mr. Bader's words when he said that this atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect is something we should work for in all international forums, however deep our differences on substance may be.

I am very grateful to members of the Council for the co-operation they have extended to me which has made my task a very light one indeed.

I should like to express again my deep sense of indebtedness to members of the Secretariat, particularly to Mr. Abebe, for the support they have given me. My thanks go also to the interpreters for the excellent work they have done.

With the adoption of the report to the Security Council, the Trusteeship Council has almost concluded the work of its fifty-second session. There is one small item of business I should like to refer to before closing the meeting.

Members will recall that on 23 May the Council took note of communication T/COM.10/L.354 from the Fourth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature requesting the Government of Japan to halt permanently its nuclear waste dumping plans in any place in the Pacific region. In this connection, I feel that I should correct an earlier omission and draw the Council's attention to the letter dated 18 March 1985 in document T/1870 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General in which he set forth the position of his Government on this subject.

Finally, I wish the members of the Mission which will be leaving for Micronesia on Sunday a pleasant and successful journey.

CLOSURE OF THE SESSION

The PRESIDENT: I declare closed the fifty-second session of the Trusteeship Council.

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.