



## Trusteeship Council

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Forty-ninth session  
Agenda item 4

## CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Report of the Drafting Committee

1. At its 1535th meeting, on 28 May 1982, the Trusteeship Council appointed a drafting committee composed of the representatives of France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to propose, on the basis of the discussions which had taken place in the Council, conclusions and recommendations on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and to make recommendations concerning the chapter on conditions in that Territory for inclusion in the next report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council.
2. The Drafting Committee held four meetings. It had the benefit of the assistance of representatives of the Administering Authority.
3. In the light of the general discussions in the Trusteeship Council on conditions in the Territory, the Committee drafted a number of conclusions and recommendations which it considered as reflecting the opinions of the majority of the members of the Council and which are set out in the annex to the present report.
4. The Committee recommends to the Trusteeship Council that it adopt the revised working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/L.1228 and Add.1-3) as the basic text for the chapter on conditions in that Territory to be included in the next report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council.
5. The Committee also recommends that the Trusteeship Council adopt the conclusions and recommendations set out in the annex and include them at the end of the report.



Annex

DRAFT CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. GENERAL

Land and people

1. The Trusteeship Council takes note of the preliminary results of the census conducted in the Trust Territory in 1980 as submitted by the Administering Authority in its annual report.
2. The Council takes note of the continuing concern expressed by representatives of the Trust Territory about the possible dangers of the dumping of nuclear waste in the Pacific region. The Council notes in particular the statements concerning this matter made by Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Senate President Olympio T. Borja of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands during the 1523rd meeting of the Council (see T/PV.1523) and also the communication received from the Truk Legislature contained in document T/COM.10/L.304.
3. In this connexion, the Council takes note of the letter dated 2 June 1982 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Trusteeship Council (T/1841) and in particular it notes the assurances of the Japanese Government that it will continue its efforts to obtain the understanding of the countries and Territories concerned and will take fully into account their sentiments and sensitivities on the matter.
4. The Council notes that the Administering Authority has not sought a dialogue with the Government of Japan on the question of the proposed dumping of nuclear waste since, in the opinion of the Administering Authority, such proposals are fully in accordance with existing international law. The Council takes note of the statement made by the representative of the Administering Authority during the 1526th meeting of the Council that, for its part, the United States Government does not intend to dispose of nuclear wastes in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands or in the waters adjacent to the Trust Territory (see T/PV.1526).
5. The Council welcomes the progress made towards the establishment of ground stations for satellite communications throughout the Trust Territory, but notes with concern the anxiety expressed by the representative of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia concerning the ability of the current land-based facilities in the Federated States of Micronesia to utilize fully the satellite system. The Council notes with satisfaction that an agreement between the Republic of Palau and the Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT) has now been signed and that the telecommunications system is expected to be in operation by November 1982.
6. The Council takes note of the concerns expressed by Senate President Olympio T. Borja of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands during the 1523rd meeting of the Council about the Tinian lease option (see T/PV.1523).

Civil service

21. The Council notes with concern the events relating to a strike of government employees which took place in Palau during September 1981 leading to the burning of the President's Office.
22. The Council notes the Palau Government's approval of a 50 per cent increase in salaries of government employees. It takes note of the Administering Authority's assertion that personnel costs now account for approximately 83 per cent of Palau's budget.
23. The Council also reiterates its conviction that the size of the civil service throughout the Trust Territory remains a cause for concern, placing a heavy burden on territorial budgets and absorbing a disproportionate share of trained personnel. In this connexion, the Council notes that during 1980/81, there was a decrease of more than 7 per cent in civil service employment in the Governments of the Trust Territory. But once again the Council urges the Administering Authority to give every possible assistance to the constitutional Governments to encourage the creation of jobs in the non-government sector and thereby allow rationalization and reduction of their civil services without contributing to the problems of unemployment.

Political education

24. The Council notes with satisfaction that the Administering Authority has invited the Governments of Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia to enact legislation for political education programmes and for the anticipated plebiscite on future political status. The Council also notes that the Administering Authority is prepared to assist these efforts within its resources, as appropriate and as requested by the Governments.
25. The Council considers that the various island communities throughout the Trust Territory should be consulted on the form and scope of the political education programme so that its implementation meets the needs and wishes of their people.
26. The Council welcomes the statement by the Federated States of Micronesia that it has already consulted with the Administering Authority on a broad public education programme and has prepared tentative plans. The Council also notes the assurance given by Mr. Takesy at the 1530th meeting of the Council (see T/PV.1530) that the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia will do everything possible to ensure that a fair and soundly based political education process takes place throughout the nation.
27. The Council takes note of the statement made by Mr. DeBrum at the 1527th meeting of the Council (see T/PV.1527), in which he pointed out that the operations of the Marshall Islands Government and the deliberation of the Parliament and its committees are public and that sessions are broadcast live to all parts of the Marshall Islands. The Council welcomes Mr. DeBrum's assurance that translations of the compact of free association have been widely distributed in the Marshall Islands.

28. The Council notes that the Government of Palau has already distributed English-language versions of the compact to some schools, religious organizations and state governments in Palau and that arrangements are now in hand for reproduction of the Palauan translation of the compact. The Council also notes that the Government of Palau broadcasts sessions of the Legislature and Cabinet meetings.

29. The Council notes that the Administering Authority has sponsored and financed the translation of the compact of free association into 12 local languages. The Council remains concerned about the generally slow pace of the political education programme in preparation for the plebiscite. In this connexion, the Council takes note of the oral petition presented at the 1529th meeting of the Council by the representative of the Focus on Micronesia Coalition (see T/PV.1529), in which he asserted that the translations were not yet available to most of the people of Micronesia.

#### Decentralization

30. The Council welcomes the substantial efforts made by the Administering Authority to transfer all possible responsibility and authority to the new Governments without derogating from its fundamental responsibilities as Administering Authority.

31. The Council notes that a number of the activities of the Trust Territory Headquarters were dissolved or substantially reduced during 1981, and that the number of personnel has been reduced to about 300.

32. The Council notes that in 1980/81, the Administering Authority provided a total of \$7.4 million towards meeting the costs of transition from the Trust Territory Government to local self-government under constitutional systems.

#### Judiciary

33. The Council notes with satisfaction that a judicial system has been established in Palau and that a Palauan has been appointed to the post of Chief Justice.

34. The Council notes similarly that the Chief Justice of the High Court of the Marshall Islands has been appointed and that the first successful criminal jury trial was recently conducted in the Marshall Islands before the Trust Territory High Court.

35. The Council also notes with satisfaction that the Federated States of Micronesia has established its final branch of government, the Supreme Court, and that the Court is now empowered to handle all legal issues that arise in the Federated States.

C. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

General

36. The Trusteeship Council notes with regret that the Territory's economy is such that it cannot come up with sufficient funds to cover the administrative and social expenditure of the constitutional Governments. In particular, the structural imbalances in the economy seem not to have been significantly reduced. In addition, this year the Territory has suffered the effects of the deterioration of the economic situation in the United States and throughout the world. Under the circumstances, the Council feels that substantial economic and financial assistance to the Territory is more necessary than ever. It notes in this connexion the efforts made by the Administering Authority to help local governments to develop their economic activities.

37. The Council further notes that the Micronesian economy continues to suffer from the structurally high level of energy prices. However, it notes the efforts that have been made to carry out a complete inventory of available energy resources and to find new sources of energy.

38. The Council again notes that the Territory's balance of trade shows a very large deficit. It regrets the failure to achieve an adequate increase in the funds derived from agriculture, handicrafts, fishing and tourism. Accordingly, it again urges the Administering Authority to promote the development of the kinds of production that can satisfy local needs, especially for food. It notes that the Administering Authority is providing assistance to the constitutional Governments if requested, in order to develop local products, thereby discouraging purchases of similar products abroad.

39. The Council notes with satisfaction the completion, as at 1 January 1982, of 18 projects, totalling \$25 million, under the five-year capital improvement programme which has just ended. However, it regrets the delay in carrying out other projects. It takes note of the assurance by the Administering Authority that the remaining projects will be completed, or at least started, by the end of 1982.

40. With regard to the second phase of the capital improvement programme, the Council hopes that the development of the outer islands will not be neglected. It notes that funds will be provided for that purpose by a number of United States federal agencies.

41. The Council again notes that water and electricity supplies continue to be erratic in certain parts of the Territory, especially Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia. It is pleased to see, however, that a programme for rehabilitation of the diesel generators has been started.

Public finance

42. The Council notes that the constitutional Governments were given the opportunity to determine their own priorities for the 1983 budgetary year, taking into account certain budgetary ceilings.

43. The Council notes that, during fiscal year 1981, the Administering Authority provided the constitutional Governments with a total of \$US 7.4 million to help them cover their expenses during the transitional period.
44. The Council regrets that budget cuts have affected certain United States federal programmes. It is pleased to note, however, that the cuts have not affected the level of certain key programmes such as health and education.
45. The Council notes that programmes are under way for the rationalization of the various financial systems and that the constitutional Governments are being consulted on this matter and also on budget preparation procedures and accounting transfers.
46. The Council notes that taxes and duties are now within the competence of the constitutional Governments, under the agreement on free trade within the Trust Territory. It reiterates its view that the Territory's tax system should be designed to discourage the import of goods and services which could be obtained locally.

Assistance from international institutions and other countries

47. The Council welcomes the development of relations between the leadership of the Territory and the various regional and international programmes. It notes in this connexion that the four Governments have acquired full member status with the South Pacific Commission (SPC) as well as associate member or observer status with several other regional or international bodies.
48. The Council also notes with satisfaction the assistance provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) under the three-year health development programme launched in 1979, with particular reference to the training of medical and paramedical personnel and the granting of fellowships. Thanks to action by WHO, it has also been possible to reduce mortality from certain diseases, to improve child feeding, and to give the community a hand in controlling diseases itself. In conjunction with the SPC, nutrition and health education training courses were organized last summer. The Council is again encouraging the constitutional Governments to pursue these activities. The Council welcomes the readiness of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to co-operate with the Micronesians in areas within its competence.
49. The Council notes the efforts undertaken by the Governments of the Territory to forge links and develop co-operation with other States in the region. It welcomes the technical assistance agreements concluded between the Federated States of Micronesia and Japan. It also notes that the Federated States of Micronesia has joined the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation and intends to become an associate member of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and, through the intermediary of the Development Bank of the Federated States, of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

### Credit

50. The Council welcomes the progress made since the previous session in the operation of the Economic Development Loan Fund. It notes that, as soon as Palau has set up its national bank, credits totalling approximately \$US 5.5 million will be available in the form of loans for the Territory as a whole.

### Land

51. The Council again notes that public land has been transferred to the constitutional Governments, with the exception of small areas of Palau where there are still some administrative difficulties. It regrets that these difficulties have yet to be resolved.

52. The Council notes that the weather stations and adjoining housing still held by the Government of the Territory will be handed over to the constitutional Government before the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

53. The Council notes that the Administering Authority has ceased to pay compensation to the owners for its past use of land which it currently holds under indefinite use agreements.

### Agriculture and livestock

54. The Council notes that responsibility for agriculture had been transferred to the constitutional Governments.

55. It none the less believes that the Administering Authority has a duty to help the constitutional Governments to expand agricultural and livestock production to meet the needs of the population. In addition, it requests the Administering Authority to encourage these Governments to promote export-oriented agriculture.

### Marine resources

56. The Council notes with satisfaction that the three maritime authorities of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau respectively are working to strengthen their legislation on the protection of the 200-mile zones. It is concerned at the illegal fishing activities to which certain representatives of the Territory have drawn attention. It takes note of the Administering Authority's undertaking to extend its assistance, even after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, to ensure respect for the rights of the Micronesians over the 200-mile zones. It welcomes the co-operation in protecting fisheries resources within the 200-mile zones, instituted by the Nauru Agreement signed by the Governments of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands in conjunction with those of Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands.



57. The Council notes with interest that the Governments of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau have entered into a licensing agreement with the American Tuna Boat Association. It also observes with interest that the Government of the Marshall Islands has signed a fisheries agreement with the Government of Japan.

58. The Council notes with satisfaction that the Administering Authority is paying constant attention to projects for improving the exploitation of marine resources. It particularly welcomes the services of the Research Center set up in Palau.

#### Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

59. The Council notes that the Trust Territory delegation to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea during the year under review has been composed of representatives of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau.

60. The Council welcomes the possibility offered to the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau, under article 305, paragraph 1, of Part XVII of the Convention drafted by the Third Conference on the Law of the Sea, of becoming a signatory to the Convention.

#### Light industry

61. The Council reiterates its concern at the absence of small industrial enterprises in the Territory.

#### Tourism

62. The Council stresses that Micronesia can be considered to be an attractive region for tourists. It notes the remarkable growth of the tourist industry in the Northern Mariana Islands and the more modest progress achieved in other parts of the Territory. In this connexion, it notes the hotel projects in Palau and in the Marshall Islands.

63. The Council considers that tourism could only be developed gradually, with a carefully prepared over-all plan. It notes in this respect that in order to set up a tourist industry there would have to be a well-developed infrastructure (roads, water supply, electricity, hotels) and promotion of a tourist market.

64. While welcoming the expansion of the tourist industry, the Council reiterates the hope that the interests of the population and the existing social structures will be safeguarded and the environment preserved.

## E. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

### General

76. The Trusteeship Council considers that the Administering Authority has served the Trust Territory well in providing a system of universal primary schooling throughout the islands. The Council also welcomes the high rate of secondary school attendance and hopes that efforts will be directed towards improving higher educational and vocational training schemes in preparation for termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. It takes note of the transfer to local governments of jurisdiction in matters of education.

77. The Council is concerned about the deterioration of school facilities in certain areas. The Council considers that the maintenance of existing facilities should rank among the highest priorities and recommends that a training element for maintenance work should be written into all remaining educational projects.

78. The Council reiterates the concern expressed at previous sessions of the Trusteeship Council and the observations of visiting missions that there is some danger of social disorientation among young people in the Territory. The increasing number of suicides is a particularly disturbing trend among unemployed high school graduates and high school drop-outs. The Council therefore urges the Administering Authority to ensure that young people are given every opportunity to serve the community and to find useful work in making their contribution to the emerging Micronesian states.

### Primary and secondary education

79. The Council welcomes the efforts of the Administering Authority to promote special training programmes in maintenance of facilities so that the general deterioration of primary and secondary school buildings, particularly in the Federated States of Micronesia, can be halted. The Council hopes that these programmes can be continued after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

80. The Council notes with interest that steps are being taken in the Trust Territory to improve the qualifications of primary and secondary school teachers. In this connexion, the Council welcomes the activities made possible by the Territorial Teacher Training Assistance Program. It notes that the Program was continued this year and that funds will continue to be provided during fiscal 1982.

81. The Council continues to be disturbed by the inadequate facilities in the Federated States of Micronesia and the low level of school attendance there in comparison with other parts of the Trust Territory. It believes that the dispersion of the population and the remoteness of some islands should not be an obstacle to a more complete and more satisfactory education of school-age children.

#### Higher education

82. The Trusteeship Council continues to attach importance to the existence and future development of the College of Micronesia, which is the only institution for higher education in the Trust Territory.

83. The Council hopes that the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau will continue to support the College of Micronesia after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. The Council continues to view this as an important principle for the future development of the Territory and hopes that the College will continue to serve as a link between the peoples of the islands.

84. The Council welcomes the operation for the past two years in the Northern Mariana Islands of a junior community college which co-ordinates practical training at the post-secondary level in the entity and its collaboration with several universities in the United States.

#### Indigenous languages and cultures

85. The Council attaches great importance to the preservation of indigenous languages and cultures of the Trust Territory. It believes in this connexion that, in view of the small size of the population and the large number of languages in use, the Administering Authority and local governments should make a special effort to provide the means of teaching and dissemination of these languages.

86. The Council welcomes the existence of a United States federal programme aimed at financing bilingual education in the Territory and the work carried out by the Pacific Area Language Materials Development Center at the University of Hawaii for the preparation of documentation in 10 different languages of Micronesia.

87. It also welcomes the efforts of the constitutional Governments to promote indigenous arts, dance and music and the participation of the representatives of the Territory in regional artistic events, such as the South Pacific Festival of Arts.

#### Vocational training

88. The Council greatly appreciates the important contribution which the Micronesian Occupational College continues to make to vocational training in the Trust Territory.

89. The Council had welcomed vocational training programmes such as the Micronesian Trades Apprenticeship Program. It is concerned at the possible discontinuation of this Program at the end of fiscal 1982 because of a lack of funds. Consequently, it requests the Administering Authority to do its utmost to ensure the continuation of this Program. The Council reiterates on this occasion the importance which it attaches to the acquisition of technical skills by young people as an essential factor in the economic development of the Territory.

107. As in previous years, the Council does not wish to make precise recommendations on the future political status of the various Micronesian entities. It reiterates its view that free association is an option that is not incompatible with the Trusteeship Agreement, provided that the populations concerned have freely accepted it.

108. The Council notes that the United States Government has reaffirmed its intention to proceed in a manner fully consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and to take up the matter of termination of the Trusteeship Agreement at the appropriate time with the Trusteeship Council and the Security Council.

109. The Council again urges the Administering Authority to consider maintaining the amount of its aid, after the end of its mandate, at a real level comparable to that provided during recent years.

110. The Council again expresses the hope that the Micronesians will take all necessary steps to establish, after termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, the all-Micronesian entity which they agreed upon at Molokai in October 1977.

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