



Trusteeship Council
UN LIBRARY

MAY 31 1979

UN/SA COLLECTION

Distr.
LIMITED

T/L.1214/Add.1
15 May 1979

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-sixth session
Item 4 of the provisional agenda

OUTLINE OF CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

Addendum

D. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

Human rights

190. The current report of the Administering Authority states that the inhabitants of the Trust Territory are, inter alia, guaranteed the following basic human rights and fundamental freedoms as set forth in the Trust Territory Code: freedom of religion, of speech and of the press; the right of assembly and the right to petition; protection against unreasonable search and seizure; no deprivation of life, liberty or property without due process of law; no discrimination on account of race, sex or language; the maintenance of free elementary education; no imprisonment for failure to discharge contractual obligations; writ of habeas corpus; protection of trade and property rights; and due recognition of local customs.

191. The right of petition is granted and inhabitants have petitioned the United Nations and the Administering Authority. Petitions have also been submitted to United Nations visiting missions verbally and in writing. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been translated into the Territory's nine major languages and copies have been distributed to local government institutions, schools and various community groups.

Medical and health services

192. The Department of Health Services has responsibility for planning, organizing and administering all medical and health programmes. The Trust Territory Health Co-ordinating Council, composed of members from all districts, reviews and co-ordinates health services and the implementation plans of each of the district departments; prepares, and revises if necessary, a territory-wide health plan; reviews the annual budgets of the Department of Health Services as well as those of the districts; and examines requests submitted by that Department for various federal grants.

193. The Office of Health Planning and Resources Development of the Department of Health Services is responsible for health planning and resources development. The Office also co-ordinates federal health programmes in the Trust Territory at various levels.

194. There are seven main hospitals in the Territory and two subdistrict hospitals, one at Rota (Northern Mariana Islands) and the other at Ebeye (Marshall Islands). A new 116-bed hospital has been opened on Ponape. The construction of a new 50-bed hospital on Yap, which started in 1976, was nearly completed in early 1979 and construction of a 35-bed hospital on Kosrae was completed in 1978. In addition, there are 173 dispensaries and medical aid posts scattered throughout the Territory.

195. The current annual report states that in September 1978, there were 1,098 persons on the staff of the Department of Health Services (excluding those employed in the Northern Mariana Islands), 1,054 in the districts and 44 at headquarters. Of this number 46 were physicians, 48 were physicians' assistants (trained under the MEDEX programme), 21 were dentists, 6 were registered or university trained nurses, 163 were graduate nurses and 351 were health assistants and practical nurses.

196. In September 1978, there were 149 persons on the staff of the Department of Health and Environmental Services in the Northern Mariana Islands. Of this number, 10 were physicians, 3 were physicians' assistants (trained under the MEDEX programme), 4 were dentists, 7 were registered nurses, 36 were graduate nurses and 26 were practical nurses.

197. At its forty-fifth session the Trusteeship Council noted with satisfaction the progress made in strengthening the health and hospital infrastructure of the Trust Territory. The Council further welcomed the expansion of the system of health assistance which had contributed to a significant improvement in the health care delivery system in the outer islands. It noted with satisfaction that a programme of continuing education for nurses had been implemented throughout the Trust Territory and that the immunization level in the Territory was now equal to that of many developed countries. The Council recommended that the policy of expansion should be continued with a view to improving the health service facilities in the periphery of the Trust Territory.

198. The current annual report states that there was significant progress in strengthening the health and hospital infrastructure of the Trust Territory during the year under review. Work on 38 dispensaries scattered throughout the Territory - mostly on outer islands - has been completed. Plans are under consideration for the construction of a new hospital for the Marshall Islands. A three-year in-service training programme was started on 1 October 1978 at the Ponape Hospital to train some 114 health workers. Four doctors from the United States National Health Service Corps, specialists in the fields of surgery, pediatrics, internal medicine and obstetrics and gynecology, will serve at the Ponape Hospital for two years. The first was due to arrive in March 1979 and the others shortly thereafter. Meanwhile, a complete immunization survey based on district records reveals that the over-all immunization level among people under 20 years of age is not as high as originally reported. However, a campaign is under way to raise the immunization level of pre-school and elementary school children to 90 per cent.

199. The annual report states that recurrent expenditure on public health in the Trust Territory totalled \$7.8 million in 1977/78.

Community development

200. The principal organizations involved in community development in the Trust Territory are the Community Development Division and the community action agencies. The Community Development Division co-ordinates the activities of various governmental programmes, provides technical advice for self-help activities and gives support to various community groups such as women's and youth organizations. The grant-in-aid programme represents one of its main activities.

201. Through the grant-in-aid programme, the Administration extends financial and technical assistance to local communities for public projects where local cash resources are inadequate. These projects may involve the construction of facilities, such as roads, docks, dispensaries, buses, ferry-boats and electric power plants.

202. The current annual report states that since 1967, some 395 communities or organizations have received needed facilities valued at about 3.0 million through grants-in-aid. Facilities provided in 1978 were estimated to be worth about \$150,000.

203. During the forty-fifth session of the Trusteeship Council, the Administering Authority reported that four of the six districts had a community action agency. The agencies continued to play an important role in the communities, providing comprehensive social services rather than specialized services. The Community Services Administration provided over \$750,000 a year in grants to the community action agencies. An additional \$700,000 was made available by the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) for the operation of head start programmes designed for pre-school children.

204. The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands is responsible, among others, for the family food distribution and the grant-in-aid programmes. It provides advice to community groups such as women's and youth organizations. The Division assists the elderly by identifying their basic needs and initiating appropriate programmes to meet such needs.

Labour

205. According to the current annual report, it is the policy of the Trust Territory Government to give employment preference to qualified Trust Territory citizens in employment at all levels. It is also the Government's policy to further its programme of "micronization" through more intensified training of executive managerial and supervisory personnel. Alien workers are employed only when skilled Micronesians are not available to fill vacancies.

206. The number of wage-earners (excluding those in the Northern Mariana Islands) employed during the year under review was 23,939, of whom 4,575 were non-Micronesians.

207. The annual report under review States that the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands remains the largest employer in the Islands with a total of 5,525 employees, of whom 1,356 are non-Micronesians. Mariana residents still employed by the Government of the Trust Territory are given precedence for recruitment when vacancies exist in the government service of the Northern Mariana Islands. Efforts are being made, however, to place those employees in the private sector where employment opportunities will be increasingly realized.

208. At its forty-fifth session, the Trusteeship Council continued to be concerned at the imbalance between wage-earners employed in the public sector and those employed in the private sector. It noted the efforts of the Administering Authority to continue to reduce the number of officials employed by the Government of the Trust Territory. The Council noted with concern that the lack of skilled Micronesian workers was still a serious problem and hoped that the Trust Territory Government would continue in its efforts to address that problem through its apprenticeship programme. The Council welcomed the efforts by the Administering Authority to minimize the importation of alien labour and noted with pleasure the 15 per cent reduction which had resulted. The Council hoped that further reduction of unemployment would result from the programmes undertaken under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) and the increased employment opportunities as a consequence of the construction projects to be started throughout the districts over the next two years.

209. The Council noted with interest the statement by a special adviser that there was no unemployment problem in the Northern Mariana Islands.

210. The current annual report states that there is a need to continue the effort to correct the wage imbalance between wage-earners employed in the public sector and those employed in the private sector, and that the Division of Labor recognizes the need to give employment opportunities to those who lose positions in the public service when and wherever possible. Forty Micronesians from all districts were chosen to participate in the CETA financed apprenticeship programme designed to develop skills in 16 different trades to help alleviate the lack of skilled Micronesian workers in the various vocations. This programme, which ranges from two to four years, was integrated into the Navy Apprenticeship Program on Guam and was fully implemented on 1 October 1978. The Division of Labor will continue to minimize the influx of alien workers, but the number of capital improvement projects that are to be instituted in the Territory will have an effect on the entry of aliens into Micronesia.

Housing

211. In 1973, the Congress of Micronesia passed the Community Housing Act, which established a Territorial Housing Commission with power to participate in major United States housing programmes. The Commission focuses on ways to provide low-cost housing for low-income families. The Commission and six district housing authorities were established in 1974.

212. At its forty-fifth session the Trusteeship Council noted with satisfaction that in 1977 the Trust Territory had received grants from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for housing development and rent subsidies for lower income families as well as a loan for housing improvements by homeowners. It further noted that the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) had made funds available for house renovation projects in the Trust Territory. It noted with satisfaction that the Mariana Islands Housing Authority (MIHA), a public corporate entity entrusted with housing development, had made home-ownership loans available and had assisted families in the construction of safe and sanitary homes. The Council reiterated its recommendation that efforts to construct or renovate housing should be actively continued and that the necessary resources should continue to be made available for low-income housing.

213. The current annual report states that in 1978 the Trust Territory received from HUD grants totalling \$1.0 million for housing development; and \$220,000 for rent subsidies for lower income families. The Territorial Housing Commission has submitted an application to HUD for a community development grant of \$1,431,320, of which \$400,000 is earmarked for a "Latorex" plant, which will utilize local soils to produce a high-strength building material at a very low price. The Commission is also establishing a manufacturing facility for building materials, which will make it possible for home owners to obtain the material at a very low price. The factory will be financed mainly by HUD. The raw materials for the factory are locally available.

214. MIHA has made available home-ownership loans to some 250 families and has assisted them in the construction of safe and sanitary homes. According to the current annual report, by the end of 1978, MIHA would have made available a total of \$1.0 million in loans to some 60 families during that year.

215. With the enactment of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, the Northern Mariana Islands became eligible for assistance under the United States Housing Assistance Program which provides housing subsidy payments on behalf of low-income families. Further, HUD makes housing assistance payments to the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands on behalf of eligible families. During the year under review, the Government also received \$559,000 from a private lending institution to finance the construction of dwelling units and related housing activities. Further, HUD approved a project for the construction of 25 additional units in Saipan and 30 units in Rota, at a total cost of \$1,662,300 which was obtained from a private lending institution.

Public safety

216. At its forty-fifth session, the Trusteeship Council noted with concern the increase in the number of offences committed by young people, particularly in the district centres. The Council welcomed the efforts being made to combat delinquency in general and juvenile delinquency in particular, and recommended that preventive efforts should be continued.

217. The current annual report states that in four of the six districts, Palau, Truk, Yap and Ponape, experienced law enforcement officials have been recruited from the Police Department of Honolulu to assist in the administration of the departments of public safety and to train their personnel. The annual report states that there has been a reduction of 43 per cent in the number of offences committed particularly by young people.

218. In December 1978, the United States Law Enforcement Assistance Administration and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention awarded grants to the Trust Territory totalling \$376,250 for fiscal year 1979, for projects designed to reduce crime and delinquency, and to improve the criminal and juvenile justice systems in all six districts of the Trust Territory. Further individual public safety departments have promoted organized athletic activities for youths in association and co-operation with local law enforcement officers.

Peace Corps

219. Peace Corps volunteers have continued to serve in education as well as in a number of other areas. They provide architects, engineers, lawyers, health professionals, accountants, construction workers, etc. According to the Administering Authority, the most significant contribution of the Peace Corps continues to be in the field of education.

220. In 1978, Peace Corps trainees and volunteers in Micronesia numbered 196, of whom 72 were serving in an educational capacity. The current annual report states that, as Micronesians continue to assume responsibility for their own affairs, the number of needed Peace Corps volunteers will be reduced. Micronesian programmes will be supported in the future by the Peace Corps as long as the volunteers and their Micronesian hosts benefit mutually from the association.

E. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

General

221. The educational framework for the Trust Territory is defined in Public Law 3C-36 of 10 October 1969. According to this law, the purpose of education in the Territory is, inter alia, to develop the human resources of Micronesia in order to prepare the people for self-government and to provide them with skills which will be required in the development of the Territory.

222. The educational framework for the Northern Mariana Islands is set forth in the Executive Branch Organization Act of 1978. The Act provides for a Department of Education to be headed by a Superintendent of Education. It also provides for a Board of Education which would be a policy-making body of the Department of Education. The educational policies defined in Title 41 of the Trust Territory Code continued to be applicable for the operation of the educational programmes of the Northern Mariana Islands that were financed from Federal project grants through the Trust Territory.

223. Boards of education have been established at the territorial and district levels in accordance with the same law. The Micronesian Board of Education, appointed by the High Commissioner with the advice and consent of the Congress of Micronesia, is composed of one Micronesian member from each of the six districts, plus the Director of Education, who is a non-voting member.

224. Under the provisions of the United States Vocational Education Act and the Manpower Development and Training Act, as amended, a Trust Territory Manpower Advisory Council was established in 1969, consisting of 11 Micronesians and 1 expatriate. The Council advises the High Commissioner, through the Director of Education, on manpower training needs for all of Micronesia.

225. An advisory council established under provisions of the United States Elementary and Secondary Education Act sets priorities in education, reviews existing programmes and approves new ones. A student assistance committee, established by the Micronesian Board of Education in 1975, reviews applications for scholarships in higher education.

226. In accordance with Public Law 3C-36, non-public schools may be established in the Trust Territory. They are required to submit the same reports concerning attendance, enrolment and curricula as those submitted by public schools to the Director of Education.

227. Under the provisions of the law, attendance at public and non-public schools is required of all children between the ages of 6 and 14 years, or until graduation from elementary school. Free education is provided in elementary and secondary public schools.

228. At its forty-fifth session the Trusteeship Council reaffirmed its satisfaction with the excellent record of the Administering Authority in the general field of education, in particular the universal instruction at the primary level and the high rate of secondary school attendance, as well as the increasing number of post-graduate students in the Trust Territory. It welcomed the fact that students in the Trust Territory could obtain grants and loans for higher education from the Government of the United States, as well as from other Governments and international institutions.

229. The current annual report states that there is a continuing increase in the number of students going abroad for post-secondary education. In 1977/78, over 3,000 Micronesian students were attending institutions of higher learning abroad. Micronesian students, qualified and admitted to post-secondary institutions in the United States, can obtain loans and grants from the United States Government. The amounts of such grants have recently increased, and 1,151 grants and loans were made to Micronesians pursuing post-secondary studies abroad through funds made available by the Trust Territory Government, the Congress of Micronesia and various Federal programmes of the United States Government. A further 1,500 Micronesians who pursued their studies in colleges and universities abroad, principally in the United States, were supported by private sources or have received direct aid through United States student assistance programmes.

230. The annual report states that during the period under review, a Board of Regents was chosen for the College of Micronesia and its first Chancellor was selected from more than 100 applicants. The College, under its Board of Regents, will operate as an entity independent of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the Trust Territory Government. The various schools of the College will place strong emphasis on vocational studies. Sixteen of the major programmes to be offered by the College will prepare students for careers in trades, as well as in the social and business fields.

231. In 1978, the Community College of Micronesia was granted full accreditation by the Western States Association of Junior and Community Colleges. The Micronesian Occupational Center had been granted accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges in 1977.

232. According to the current annual report, in 1978, the Micronesian Board of Education requested the Department of Education to prepare an over-all report on education in the Territory from an historical perspective with special emphasis on educational development over the past 10 years. In its report, the Department states, *inter alia*, that although no one would deny that much remained to be done for the development of Micronesia and of its citizens in education as in all other fields, it would equally be hard to deny the fact that much had been done, and was being done, to further the development of individual Micronesians and of Micronesia as a whole.

Primary and secondary education

233. According to the annual report of the Administering Authority, there were 228 public and 20 non-public schools in the Territory in 1978 including the Northern Mariana Islands. Pupils enrolled in public and non-public schools numbered 31,257, of whom 28,026 were attending public elementary schools.

234. The teaching staff in public elementary schools consisted of 1,309 Micronesian teachers and 23 non-Micronesian teachers. The teaching staff in non-public elementary schools consisted of 126 Micronesian teachers and 44 non-Micronesian teachers.

235. Secondary education was provided in 18 public and 12 non-public schools. There were four public schools in the Northern Mariana Islands, six in Truk, three in Yap, two in the Marshall Islands, and one each in Palau, Ponape and Kosrae. Of the non-public schools, there were five in Palau, four in the Marshall Islands and one each in the Northern Mariana Islands, Ponape and Truk.

236. Secondary school enrolment in 1978 totalled 6,287 in public schools and 1,695 in non-public schools, compared with 6,145 and 1,562 respectively in the previous year. The secondary school staff consisted of 566 teachers (409 in public schools and 157 in non-public schools). Of the total number of secondary school teachers, 367 were Micronesians and 199 were non-Micronesians.

237. According to the current annual report, the public elementary schools in the Marshall and Caroline Islands enrolled 195 new students in 1978. Non-public elementary schools reported an increase of 129 students in the same period. Public secondary schools showed a decrease of 40 students in 1978, while non-public secondary schools reported an increase of 99 new students.

238. At its forty-fifth session, the Trusteeship Council noted with interest the reported progress, in terms of cultural relevance, in raising the level of instruction in both primary and secondary schools, through the introduction of bilingual materials based on orthographically consistent vernacular languages. The Council welcomed the planned completion of a high school complex in Kosrae in 1978/79.

239. The current annual report states that the development of bilingual curriculum materials is in progress and a number of teachers are pursuing advanced studies in language programmes at the University of Hawaii. English and vernacular dictionaries in most of the languages have been published and are now in use with the exception of Trukese and Ponapean dictionaries which are scheduled to be published by the end of 1979. The high school complex in Kosrae has been completed and the facilities are in full use.

Higher education

240. According to the current annual report, Public Law 7-29, establishing the College of Micronesia under a Board of Regents, was enacted in 1977. That law integrated the educational institutions formerly known as the Community College of Micronesia (including the School of Nursing) and the Micronesian Occupational Center.

241. The College of Micronesia, located at Kolonia Town, Ponape, offers a two-year programme leading to an Associate of Science Degree in Elementary Education. In 1977/78, the College had a coeducational enrolment of 166 students, of whom 129 were studying at the campus at Kolonia and 37 were at the nursing school on Saipan (which is affiliated with the College). There were also 168 students enrolled at the extension centres in the Marshall Islands, Palau, Ponape, Truk and Yap districts. The number of students who completed their studies at the College in 1977/78 was 83.

242. The Northern Mariana Islands Community College was established in 1976. The College, which is a two-year institution, is administered by the Department of Education of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Community College, through the Community Career College of the University of Guam, grants associate of arts degrees in elementary, secondary and special education.

243. Micronesian students attending institutions of higher learning abroad in 1977/78 numbered 1,151. Of this number, 256 were pursuing studies in business administration, 212 were following courses in the field of education, 155 were pursuing studies in the field of medicine and health care and 105 were studying political and social sciences. According to the current annual report, an estimated number of 1,500 students were pursuing their studies abroad with private support through Federal assistance programmes (see also para. 229 above).

244. According to the annual report under review, students from the Northern Mariana Islands attending institutions of higher learning abroad in 1977/78 numbered 394. Of these, 117 were pursuing studies in business administration, 139 were following studies in public service, 27 were pursuing studies in health care and 36 were taking courses in communications.

245. At its forty-fifth session, the Trusteeship Council noted with interest that the College of Micronesia had been established, integrating the institutions formerly known as the Community College of Micronesia (including the School of Nursing) and the Micronesian Occupation Center. The Council noted with satisfaction that the Micronesian Occupational Center had been granted full accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges of the United States and that the Community College of Micronesia hoped for full accreditation in June 1978. The Council noted that 1,468 Micronesian students were attending institutions of higher learning abroad in 1976/77.

Vocational education

246. The Micronesian Occupational College (formerly known as the Micronesian Occupational Center), located on Koror in Palau District, is a boarding school offering vocational and technical training to students from all districts of the Territory. In all courses, students may be enrolled in secondary, post-secondary and adult classes, depending on previous education and individual programme objectives. The College also provides each district in the Territory with a vocational education supervisor who co-ordinates pre-vocational, vocational and industrial arts programmes in the district.

247. In 1977/78 the Micronesian Occupational College had an enrolment of 247 students. During the year, 102 students completed certificate or diploma courses which brought to 962 the number of graduates of the College since its inception.

248. Vocational courses are also offered in all public secondary schools. Most secondary schools also offer an industrial arts programme.

249. The College of Micronesia, in co-operation with the Ponape Agriculture and Trade School, offers teachers a two-year programme leading to an associate of science degree in secondary vocational education.

250. The current annual report states that vocational education in the Northern Mariana Islands emphasizes the practical use of skills and theory. A wide range of work is offered on campus and in the community.

251. The annual report further states that a five-year plan for vocational education in the Northern Mariana Islands was formulated and approved and that the programme is now receiving \$200,000 annually. The funds are being used to carry out existing vocational programmes and to improve as well as expand programmes in construction, agriculture and technical electronics.

252. Concerned at the failure of many young people to find work commensurate with their educational qualifications, the Trusteeship Council, at its forty-fifth session, reiterated its view that the educational system of the Trust Territory should develop greater emphasis on the disciplines that would best prepare students for life in Micronesian society, with special reference to technical and vocational training.

253. The current annual report states that continued efforts are being made to strengthen vocational training programmes in high schools throughout the Territory in the areas of agriculture, mechanics, boatbuilding and construction.

254. The co-operative programme conducted by the University of Hawaii and the Micronesian Occupational College in Palau for teachers of vocational education was held again during the summer of 1978. In addition, the University of Hawaii offered transfer credit courses in English and science and the Micronesian Occupation College offered credit courses in food services, basic electronics, telephone system maintenance and repair and island jewelry making. Sixty-five vocational education teachers from all districts of the Territory participated in the programme.

255. Regular vocational education programmes in grades 9 to 12 reached approximately 5,250 students. Two pilot projects, one in Yap District and the other in the Marshall Islands District were also conducted in traditional island skills related to marine resources activities.

256. The Northern Mariana Islands, according to the current annual report, has implemented vocational education programmes in grades 8 to 9. The programme in grades 10 to 12 is structured to meet the 1,081-hour requirements of the Vocational Education Act of 1968. In 1978, the number of students enrolled in the programme totalled 1,412, an increase of 430 over the previous period. Of these, about 150 graduate annually.

257. A programme in vocational training under the auspices of the Trust Territory Government, the CETA programme and the United States Navy began operation in 1978. The Micronesian Trades Apprenticeship Program administered by the Consolidated Industrial Relations Office of the United States Naval Station on Guam has accepted 40 Micronesians for an intensified two to four year vocational programme.

258. In the Northern Mariana Islands, 20 vocational education classes are being offered during the period under review in a number of different fields. In addition to the regular classes, co-operative education was incorporated in the vocational study programme which offers on-the-job training to students in many fields.

259. According to the current annual report, 21 persons serve full time in the Vocational Rehabilitation Programme in every district except Kosrae, where it is scheduled to begin in 1979. Currently, some 800 persons, over 80 per cent of whom are severely disabled, come under the programme. During 1978 the programme completed the rehabilitation of 79 persons, almost all of whom are now gainfully employed.

Teacher training

260. According to the current annual report, in addition to the students enrolled at the College of Micronesia, 212 students attending institutions of higher learning abroad are reported to be pursuing studies in the field of education.

261. A one-year programme for persons with previous teaching experience is offered by the College of Micronesia extension centres in all districts except the Northern Mariana Islands. The latter has its own series of college-level courses. During the summer of 1978, college-level courses were also offered in all districts for in-service teachers.

262. At its forty-fifth session, the Trusteeship Council welcomed the statement by the High Commissioner concerning promulgation of regulations for the certification of teachers by the Micronesian Board of Education and the requirement that within five years all teachers in the Territory would have acquired a two-year college

degree. The Council welcomed the consistent pattern of replacing expatriate teachers and administrators with returning Micronesian college graduates and the continuing efforts to replace those few expatriates still holding posts in secondary schools with qualified Micronesians.

263. The current annual report states that various programmes have been instituted to upgrade qualifications of teachers for certification. The College of Micronesia offers courses both at its main campus and at extension centres in the districts for those planning to become teachers. It also offers courses for those who specialize in the teaching of handicapped children. The Micronesian Occupational College, in co-operation with the University of Hawaii, offers summer teacher training courses in academic vocational fields. A number of teachers are sent to the University of Hawaii for training in language arts and curriculum writing.

264. According to the annual report, in-service teacher education in the Northern Mariana Islands is offered primarily by the Department of Education in co-operation with the University of Guam, San Jose State, the University of California, the University of Hawaii and the College of Micronesia. Several teachers and personnel of the Department of Education attended institutions of higher education in Guam, Hawaii and the United States in 1978.

Dissemination of information on the United Nations

265. The current annual report of the Administering Authority states that information on the activities of the United Nations is widely disseminated in the Trust Territory. As in the preceding years, the proceedings of the Trusteeship Council at its session in 1978 were broadcast on all Trust Territory radio stations. A summary of the statements made during the Trusteeship Council session by the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory and the special advisers from the Congress of Micronesia was reprinted and distributed throughout the Trust Territory. The UN Monthly Chronicle and the UNESCO Courier are among the publications supplied to all school libraries and to public libraries in the Trust Territory.

266. The annual report further states that United Nations radio programmes including "Scope" and "This Week at the United Nations" as well as United Nations Day messages are broadcast on all district radio stations. The Trust Territory film library is the depository of some 50 United Nations films which are made available to all districts through the Trust Territory's Department of Education.

267. At its forty-fifth session, the Trusteeship Council welcomed the wide dissemination of information on the activities of the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in the Trust Territory.

268. The current annual report states that information on the United Nations and the activities of the Trusteeship Council will continue to be disseminated in the Territory in as wide a manner as possible.

F. CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND PROGRESS
TOWARDS SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE

269. At its forty-fifth session, the Trusteeship Council reaffirmed the inalienable right of the people of Micronesia to self-determination, including the right to independence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Agreement.

270. The Council recalled its conviction that the political unity of the Caroline Islands and the Marshall Islands should if possible be maintained, but it recognized that it was ultimately for the Micronesians themselves to decide upon their future political relations with each other. It noted with satisfaction that the Congress of Micronesia had decided in favour of unity within the framework of a constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia. It noted, however, that the districts of Palau and the Marshall Islands had expressed the wish that the question of their political status should be negotiated separately with the United States.

271. It noted with satisfaction that the Administering Authority considered that it would be in the interests of the people of Micronesia to maintain some form of unity. It noted that the Administering Authority nevertheless felt that it was for the Micronesians to decide upon the political unity and governmental structures of the Territory. The Council hoped that the Administering Authority would continue its efforts to establish mutually beneficial relations between the districts in all fields.

272. It expressed the hope that the Micronesians would co-operate with the Administering Authority in maintaining and developing such relations between the districts. In that connexion, the Council hoped that the Micronesians would take all necessary steps to establish, after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, the all-Micronesian entity which they had agreed upon at Molokai, Hawaii, in October 1977.

273. The Council noted with satisfaction that the negotiations on the Territory's future political status had officiallay been resumed in October 1977 at Molokai and that they had been followed by two further meetings, at San Diego, California, in January 1978 and at Hilo in April 1978. It noted that for the first time representatives of the Palau and Marhsll Islands Political Status Commissions had officially been invited to take part in these negotiations.

274. It further noted that the various parties seem to have recognized at Hilo that the solution to the problem of Micronesian representation in these negotiations would depend on the results of the constitutional referendum of 12 July 1978.

275. As in 1977, the Council did not wish to make precise recommendations on the future political status of the Territory. It reiterated its view that, among all the options open to the inhabitants, including independence, the status of free association, if endorsed by the population, would not be inconsistent with the aims of the Trusteeship Agreement.

276. It noted with interest the statement of principles for free association, which had been approved on 9 April 1978 at Hilo by representatives of the United States, and the three Micronesian commissions. The Council pointed out that at that stage what was involved was guidelines on the basis of which a final agreement was to be concluded. It noted that it would be possible for the status of free association established on the basis of those principles to be ended unilaterally. The Council noted that any agreement reached on free association would be put to a plebiscite which, according to the principles agreed upon at Hilo, the United Nations would be invited to observe.

277. The Council reiterated its opinion that the people of Micronesia should be given the fullest opportunity, before the referendum, to inform themselves about the various political choices open to them, including independence.

278. The Council accepted with pleasure the invitation of the Administering Authority to observe the referendum on the draft constitution for the Federated States of Micronesia to be held on 12 July 1978. It hoped that the presence of the visiting mission would prevent irregularities and lead to broad participation by the voters.

279. The Council noted with satisfaction the undertaking by the Administering Authority to respect the results of the constitutional referendum of 12 July 1978, whatever the outcome, and to co-operate with the appropriate Micronesian authorities, before the end of the mandate, in implementing all provisions of the constitution consistent with the Trusteeship Agreement.

280. The Council noted that the Administering Authority and the Congress of Micronesia had stated that they had overcome their differences with regard to the compatibility of the constitution with the projected status of free association. It noted with satisfaction that if a status of free association was approved by the people of Micronesia, it would take effect upon the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

281. The Council welcomed the intention expressed by the Administering Authority to seek agreement with the parties concerned, in strict compliance with the relevant provisions of the Charter, on terminating the Trusteeship Agreement by 1981 at the latest.

282. The Council noted with satisfaction that on 23 October 1977 the Government of the United States had approved the constitution of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and that the authorities elected in December 1977 had taken office on 9 January 1978. It also noted that some parts of the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America had taken effect on 9 January 1978 when the constitution entered into force. It noted with satisfaction that the Administering Authority still intended to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement simultaneously for the Northern Mariana Islands and for the rest of the Territory.

283. The Council noted with satisfaction that the Administering Authority hoped to maintain social, economic and cultural co-operation between the Northern Mariana Islands and the rest of the Territory. It urged the Administrative Authority and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to pursue that objective.

284. The current annual report of the Administering Authority states that as the legal authority and the sole judge of the referendum of 12 July 1978 on the Micronesian constitution and the results thereof, the Congress of Micronesia established in September 1978 a Special Joint Committee on Referendum Review to examine the results of the referendum on the constitution and make recommendations to it. The Special Joint Committee sent representatives to Palau District in September/October 1978, to investigate alleged irregularities in that district. Subsequently, upon the recommendation of the Special Joint Committee, the Congress certified the results of the referendum on 26 October 1978, in which Kosrae, Ponape, Truk and Yap approved the Constitution while the Marshall Islands and Palau rejected it.

285. The annual report further states that the Administering Authority is now undertaking, in consultation with the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, (Kosrae, Ponape, Truk and Yap), the Marshall Islands and Palau, the implementation of the decision taken by the people in the referendum of 12 July 1978. To that end, separate legislative authority was established for each of the three Governments on 1 October 1978 pursuant to Secretarial Order No. 3027 of 29 September 1978.

286. On 21 December 1978, the Marshall Islands Constitutional Convention adopted a draft constitution which was subsequently approved by the people in a referendum held on 1 March 1979. The Constitutional Convention of Palau adopted a draft constitution on 2 April 1979 and a referendum on that constitution is scheduled to be held on 9 July 1979.

287. On 25 April 1979, the Secretary of the Interior issued Secretarial Order No. 3039, entitled "Recognition of Governmental Entities under Locally Ratified Constitutions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands". 6/ The Order provides the maximum permissible degree of self-government for the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau, pursuant to their respective constitutions when ratified, pending termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

288. According to the Secretarial Order, subject to the limitations contained in the Order and in existing treaties, laws and regulations of the United States generally applicable in the Trust Territory, executive, legislative, and judicial functions of the Government of the Trust Territory are delegated to the three Governments. The following functions are however retained by the United States:

6/ For the text of the Order, see T/1806, annex.

(a) The High Commissioner of the Trust Territory would continue to exercise all authority necessary to carry out the obligations and responsibilities of the United States under the Trusteeship Agreement which would include;

- (i) Submission to the Congress of the United States, budgetary requests from the three Micronesian governments;
- (ii) Allocation of financial grants to the three governments;
- (iii) Auditing and accounting;
- (iv) Transmittal of grant-in-aid requests from the three governments to the appropriate Federal agencies of the United States;
- (v) Transfer, on an equitable basis, of all real and personal property currently held by the Government of the Trust Territory to the Federated States of Micronesia or its respective states, the Marshall Islands and Palau.

(b) Secretarial Order No. 2969 as amended, dealing with the transfer of Trust Territory public lands to district control would remain in effect, but the transfers contemplated by that Order would be completed by the three new Governments on or before 1 June 1979. In those instances where the district legislature concerned had not designated an entity to receive public lands under the provisions of Secretarial Order No. 2969, such land would be transferred to the State or district where it is located;

(c) All contracts, lease agreements, easements, permits, licences, and other privileges and obligations granted, entered into or obtained by the Government of the Trust Territory prior to the effective date of Secretarial Order No. 3039 would remain in force until their legal termination, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by all parties;

(d) Communications and relationships with agencies of the United States Government and with foreign Governments and organizations would be through the High Commissioner and the Secretary of the Interior, except in those specific cases where approved by the Secretary of the Interior. Communications and relationships between Micronesians and the President's Personal Representative for Micronesian Status Negotiations would not be affected by the present Order;

(e) The High Commissioner would continue to have the authority and responsibility for the operation and maintenance of telecommunications within the Trust Territory;

(f) The High Commissioner would have the authority to hire the necessary professional and administrative staff for his office.

289. Secretarial Order No. 3039 also provides that all laws of each of the three Governments would be submitted to the High Commissioner within 10 days after their approval by the Chief Executive concerned. The High Commissioner was empowered to suspend any law or part thereof if he concludes it to be inconsistent with existing secretarial orders, the Trusteeship Agreement, treaties or laws and regulations of the United States applicable in the Trust Territory or the Bill of Rights set forth in the Trust Territory Code.

290. The present community and district courts and the trial and appellate divisions of the Trust Territory High Court would continue to exercise their functions until the three governments had established functioning courts pursuant to the terms of their respective constitutions.

291. As the functions of the community courts, the district courts, and the Trial Division of the High Court had been phased out and transferred to the local courts, the Appellate Division of the High Court would retain jurisdiction by writ of certiorari to entertain appeals from the courts of last resort of each of the three governments. The ruling of the High Court of the Trust Territory upon all appeals would be final and binding.

292. The Secretarial Order states that the Social Security laws of the Trust Territory would remain in effect until the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

293. With regard to the negotiations concerning the future political status of the Trust Territory, the current annual report states that representatives of the Administering Authority, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau met in Saipan from 23 September to 2 October 1978 and from 16 to 24 January 1979. The participants are drafting the full text of a single compact of free association and subsidiary agreements to be signed by the United States and each of the three Micronesian governments.

294. The annual report points out that the Administering Authority recognizes its continuing responsibility for ensuring that the people of Micronesia are informed of the future political options open to them as fully and as objectively as possible. It intends, in consultation with the Micronesian governments, to take appropriate steps towards providing such information through the ESG programme and other suitable means. In this connexion, the annual report states that the United Nations Visiting Mission to Observe the Referendum in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, 1978, on the Micronesian constitution, witnessed the political education programmes conducted by a number of parties in preparation for that referendum, including ESG programmes carried out at the headquarters and district levels. The Mission also observed political campaigns financed by various legislative bodies.

295. The current annual report states that while the United States Government feels bound by the results of the constitutional referendum held on 12 July 1978, it will continue to encourage the closest possible co-operation among the three Micronesian governments during their transition towards self-government and in the post-trusteeship period. The Administering Authority shares the view of the Trusteeship Council that co-operation between the Northern Mariana Islands and the rest of the Trust Territory should be maintained and that it will facilitate the attainment of this objective to the extent possible.

296. The Administering Authority reaffirms its intention to seek agreement with the parties concerned to terminate the Trsuteeship Agreement by 1981 simultaneously for all areas of the Trust Territory, including the Northern Mariana Islands.
