



UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



GENERAL 21

T/PET.9/5
26 June 1950

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

M | K | A

PETITION FROM THE CHINESE COMMUNITY OF NAURU CONCERNING NAURU

Note by the Secretary-General: In accordance with rule 84 of the rules of procedure for the Trusteeship Council, the Secretary-General has the honour to transmit herewith to the members of the Trusteeship Council a communication dated 8 May 1950 from the Chinese Community of Nauru concerning the Trust Territory of Nauru. This communication was transmitted to the Secretary-General by the United Nations Visiting Mission to Trust Territories in the Pacific.

/COPY
T/PET.9/5

C O P Y

United Nations Representatives Welcoming
Preparation Committee,
Chinese Community,
Nauru Island,
Central Pacific.
8th May, 1950.

To Delegates of the United Nations Trusteeship Mission.

Sirs,

We have much pleasure in expressing our sincere welcome of your visit in this island.

During your sojourn on this island in the last few days and by the visits you paid to the various places, we are quite sure that you will have a thorough idea about this island. As regarding the Chinese Community, there are several points which the Community wishes to bring forward to the United Nations Trusteeship Council. These suggestions were gathered by this Committee in a democratic formality.

(1) HOSPITAL

The outlook of the Chinese Hospital is rather well equipped, however, inwardly speaking, Chinese patients were only being treated with nothing else but "Aspirin". Patients suffering from Tuberculosis were mostly left alone in the hospital without supply of medicine of any kind. Those suffered from external wounds were only treated with "Iodine".

It was suggested that wooden ceiling should be used in the hospital premises in order to avoid the heat especially in this climate. More medical supplies should be available and provision for patients should be improved. As regarding sick leave, it was stated in the agreement between the B.P.C. and the Chinese employees that 28 days of sick leave is allow for each employee each year. It was also suggested that this condition is unreasonable and hope it will be abolished.

/(2) TRAVELLING

(2) TRAVELLING PAY

In the agreement, recruits coming to this island from Hongkong will receive half pay while travelling and none for repatriates returning to China. Suggested that pay should be given in full both from and returning to Hongkong while travelling.

(3) TRAVELLING FARE FROM HONGKONG TO NATIVE VILLAGE

As stated in the agreement between the B.P.C. and Chinese employees, a sum of money will be paid to each man as travelling fare from Hongkong to their respective native villages in China upon their repatriation. It was only verbally instructed that this particular sum of money will be obtainable at the B.P.C. agent's office in Hongkong however, no written document is issue to each respective man. Evidently, many of the returnees to Hongkong were not paid by the agent. The repatriates had to find their own means of transit back to their respective village. Suggest better system should be used to assure payment of this money, amount should be £3 each.

(4) REMITTANCES TO CHINA

All remittances of money to Hongkong by Chinese on this island are being handled by the B.P.C. once a month. Suggested that remittances should be acceptable by the B.P.C. accounting department should accept remittances any day of the month and a draft should be issued accordingly.

(5) WAR CLAIMS

Upon the outbreak of the second world war, many Chinese were evacuated to Australia while some remained on this island through out the Japanese occupation and few were taken to Caroline Island by the Japanese. Those evacuated to Australia, before leaving this island were instructed by the management of the B.P.C. to leave their luggages and personal belongings behind and stored in the "German" phosphate storage bin. After the peace announced, the Chinese repatriates to this island from Australia found that all those belongings lost. A claim has been forwarded to the management of the B.P.C. for the loss but nothing was heard from the B.P.C. until this date. (Original petition attached, No. 1). Among those 180 odd Chinese remained on this island during the Japanese occupation, five were maliciously murdered by the Japanese and several died of malnutrition. Those who were fortunate to survive were mostly robbed

of their properties and belongings by the Japanese. After the repatriation of the Australian Administration on this island, a petition has been forwarded for the claimant of war-time salary and other damages from the B.P.C. War-time salary was evidently approved and duly paid however, no attention was paid as regarding damages of private properties. (Original petition attached No. 2). Among those seven who were sent to Caroline Island, one of them claimed that after the cessation of the second world war, he was brought back to Nauru by the Australian Administration and was instructed to surrender all the Japanese money amongst his savings to exchange for Australian currency. He surrendered the Japanese money but did not receive the Australian currency in exchange until this time (Original petition attached No. 3).

(6) FREEDOM TO PROCEED BEYOND THE LIMITS OF THE CHINESE LOCATION

Chinese on this island who wishes to go beyond the limits of the Chinese Location on holidays and after working hours must obtain a written permit from the authority. They were deprived of such freedom. Suggested that this regulation should be abolished.

(7) PURCHASING RIGHTS

The only place where the Chinese on this island to purchase daily essentials and other goods are from the B.P.C. Trade Store, however, commodities for sale at the Trade Store were usually divided into two classes i.e. Goods for sale to Chinese and Goods not for sale to Chinese. With such a system of race distinction, it seemed rather unjust. Suggested such inequality should be abolished.

(8) CHINESE PROVISION

We are still feeling a lack of food supply and the supplied food were unsuitable to Chinese taste. Suggested that fresh cabbages or vegetables, salted fish, salted beans and other Chinese sauces etc. from China should be supplied.

(9) LODGING ACCOMMODATIONS

At present about 14 or 15 men occupies one hut which seems rather congested and unfit for health. Suggested eight persons to one hut.

(10) WATER SUPPLY

Suggested each Chinese should receive an issue of four gallons of water each day for drinking and washing purposes.

/(11) REMUNERATION

(11) REMUNERATION

Owing to high cost of living, it is difficult for the Chinese to support their families in China with the present rate of pay. Suggest pay should be re-adjusted in accordance with International Labour law.

(12) CHINESE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY

As stated in the Agreement between the B.P.C. and the Chinese employees, one day holiday is given on Chinese New Year. Suggested that three days instead of one should be given in order to coincide with Chinese customs.

(13) REMAINS OF DEAD CHINESE

Suggested that remains of dead Chinese on this island both in the past and future, be transported to Hongkong and be entrusted to the Tung Wah Hospital in Hongkong pending claimant by the deceased relations.

For the Committee
on behalf of the Chinese Community in Nauru

(Signed) CHEUNG HANG FOO

CHAIRMAN

READ AND SIGNED BY THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE:

CHEN KAN

CHU PUI CHING

Fourteen signatures in Chinese

Received at United Nations Headquarters: 22 May 1950

Note by the United Nations Secretariat: The enclosures to which reference is made above were not attached to the original communication.

C O P Y

United Nations Representatives Welcoming
Preparation Committee,
Chinese Community,
Nauru Island,
8th May, 1950.

To
Delegates of the United Nations Trusteeship Mission.

Sirs,

We wish also to bring to your attention another point which concerns humanity.

For human propagation, progression of society, contentment of sexual desire and as well as family consolation are the essentials and cannot be lacked in human mankind. The Chinese aliens on this island employed by the B.P.C., very many were prompted to remain on this island may be from ten to twenty years in order to maintain a livelihood. To those, as to contentment of sexual desire and family consolation is concern, they had been totally deprived of. It is needless to describe the witheredness of their daily life and the affliction of their spirit. Besides, since the second world war terminated, practically the whole universe were threatenod by the sign of "High cost of living". Say for instance, a mechanic on this island receives a salary of £14 a month which approximately equals to 180 Hongkong dollars, deducting the reasonable personal expenses, with the remainder if it so happened that he has to remit to Hongkong to keep alive their wife and children, naturally that sum would be far remote from sufficient. So, financially there is a feeling of shortage and spiritually not a bit of consolation could be obtained. Although such matters are only concerned with the employee personally and not the employer, but it is no doubt indirectly will effect the efficiency of their daily task. Should the employer understand this grievance on the employce's part and given consideration in allowing them to bring their families to this island and settle down humanly, it is believed that efficiency of his work would be far beyond the standard.

/Furthermore,

Furthermore, it is no doubt inhuman incidents could be happened and had happened when a man is too anxious to seek for contentment of sexual desire as it is prohibited on this island to seek for consolation from the opposite sex on this island.

Yours truly,

(Signed) CHEUNG HANG FOO

CHAIRMAN
for the Chinese Community
