

Fifth session

ARRANGEMENTS FOR A VISITING MISSION TO THE
TRUST TERRITORIES IN THE PACIFIC IN 1950

Memorandum prepared by the Secretariat

Members of the Trusteeship Council are already aware that the purpose for which the Secretary-General has proposed the inclusion in the agenda of the question of arrangements for a visiting mission to the Trust Territories in the Pacific area in 1950^{1/} is to obtain certain preliminary decisions which would serve as a basis for the preparation of budgetary estimates to be considered by the General Assembly at its fourth regular session.

It would be desirable for the Council to indicate for this purpose its views on such matters as the numerical composition of the visiting mission, the approximate time and duration of its visit, and in a general way the order in which the Trust Territories are to be visited. To facilitate the consideration of these matters, the following data are presented for the information of the Council.

1. GEOGRAPHICAL

(a) Pacific Islands

The Territory consists chiefly of three island groups, the Marianas, the Carolinas and the Marshalls. The southernmost island of the Marshalls however, is Guam, which is a separate United States possession and it is at Guam that the Deputy High Commissioner of the Trust Territory is stationed.

The three island groups are estimated to cover 3,000,000 square miles. There are 96 distinct island units. These together with various small islands have, however, a combined land area of only 687 square miles.

(b) New Guinea

The Territory has a total area of about 1,000,000 square miles. It consists mainly of the north-east portion of the mainland of the island

1/ See document T/349.

of New Guinea, the Bismarck Archipelago and the island of Bougainville in the Solomons. The land area is about 93,000 square miles, nearly 70,000 being on the main island of New Guinea.

(c) Western Samoa

The Territory consists of the two main islands of Upolu and Savai'i, and a few small uninhabited islands.

Each of the two main islands is approximately 45 miles long and they are separated by a ten mile strait.

(d) Nauru

The Territory consists of the one small island approximately twelve miles in circumference.

2. CLIMATIC CONDITIONS

(a) Pacific Islands

The Territory is divided into two climatic zones. The Marshalls and the eastern Carolinas lie within the north-east trade wind belt. The western Carolinas and the Marianas, however, are on the eastern fringe of the monsoon zone of East Asia, and the prevailing winds in the summer months are from the south-west and west.

Generally speaking, the stormy weather in the Territory is in the August to December period with the most equable season from March to July. The mean temperature varies from about 75° to 85° F with a diurnal range of less than 10° F.

(b) New Guinea

There are two distinct seasons in the Territory. The north-west season is from October until March or April, accompanied by strong gusty winds and rain. The south-east season, from April until September is a period of steady trade winds and rain falls mainly during the night. At sea level the temperature varies little during the year, having a mean of about 80°. In the upland valleys, however, days are hot and the nights are cold.

(c) Western Samoa

The Territory has a two-season year, a dry season from May until October and a wet season from November until April. There is little difference in temperature, the annual mean being about 80° F.

(d) Nauru

There are two seasons in the Territory, a rainy season from November until February and a dry season from March until October. This division of months, however, cannot be accepted with any certainty, as between August and October, violent squalls may hit the island from any direction. Temperatures range from 94° F during the day to 76° at night.

/(e) Timing of

(e) Timing of Visit

From the data given above, it may be considered that a visit covering all four Territories could best be carried out between March at the earliest and October at the latest.

3. TRAVEL AND ITINERARY

Depending on the order in which it may be wished to visit the four Territories, several alternative itineraries are possible. On the basis of the information available to it, however, the Secretariat has used for purposes of illustration and information the sequence Pacific Islands - Nauru - New Guinea - Western Samoa. This order of visits may be considered best suited to the distances involved and the travel facilities available.

The following approximate schedule, providing for an absence from New York of some 110 days, is presented purely for the purpose of illustrating the travel factors involved. Estimates of the time that might be spent within each Territory are given only for this purpose; allowance is made for 30 days in the Pacific Islands and 40 days in New Guinea, bearing in mind the extent of internal travel required; seven days in Nauru, taking into account the smallness of that Territory; and seven days in Western Samoa, in view of the comparatively recent and considerably longer visit to that Territory by a special Mission.

It may be noted that in almost all cases travel from New York to the Trust Territories, and between the Trust Territories, can be carried out on regular air lines operating on reasonably frequent schedules. Special flights may, however, have to be arranged between the Pacific Islands and Nauru, in particular.

Allowance is made in the following illustrative schedule for certain brief rest periods in the course of the longer journeys, in view of the large amount of travel that will be involved in the itinerary as a whole.

1st day: New York to San Francisco (2,667 miles). Leave New York in the evening, arrive San Francisco the following day.

2nd day: Rest in San Francisco.

3rd day: San Francisco to Honolulu (2,393 miles).
Leave San Francisco at 10 p.m. and arrive Honolulu at 8 a.m.

4th day: In Honolulu (headquarters of High Commissioner of Pacific Islands).

5th day: Honolulu to Guam via Midway and Wake Islands (4,003 miles).
Leave Honolulu at 3.45 a.m., arrive Guam at 10.30 p.m.

6th to 37th day: Pacific Islands

In Guam (location of the Deputy High Commissioner) and the Pacific Islands Territory.

/ 38th day:

38th day: Guam to Nauru (1,850 miles) Special flight necessary.

39th to 46th day: In Nauru.

47th day: Nauru to Port Moresby (Papua) (1,450 miles) Special flight necessary.

48th to 88th day: In New Guinea.

89th day: Port Moresby to Sydney (Australia) (1,936 miles).
Leave Port Moresby 8.30 a.m., arrive Sydney 10.30 p.m.

90th day to 94th day: In Australia (for rest and possible visit to Australian Government at Canberra).

94th day (midnight): Sydney to Fiji, via Numea (2,127 miles). Leave Sydney 11.59 p.m., arrive Fiji 1 p.m., next day.

96th day: Fiji to Western Samoa, via Tonga (1,000 miles). Leave Fiji at 5.40 a.m., arrive Western Samoa 4.10 p.m.

97th to 101st day: In Western Samoa.

102nd day: Western Samoa to Fiji (return as above) depart 8 a.m., arrive Fiji 5 p.m.

103rd day: In Fiji

104th day: Fiji To Canton Islands (1,268 miles).
Leave Fiji at 2.30 p.m., arrive Canton 10.15 p.m., depart 11.15 p.m.

105th day: Arrive Honolulu (1,906 miles from Canton Island) at 10.15 a.m.

106th day: Rest in Honolulu.

107th day: Honolulu to San Francisco (2,400 miles). Leave Honolulu 5 p.m., arrive San Francisco 7 a.m. 109th day.

109th day: Rest in San Francisco.

110th day: San Francisco to New York (2,667 miles). Leave San Francisco in evening, arrive New York following day.

A map showing the relative positions of the four Trust Territories and an indicated itinerary as described above, is appended.

4. ESTIMATES

<u>No.</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Estimates</u>
		\$
1	Travel of members (six)	24,600
2	Subsistence of members (six)	18,000
3 & 4	Travel and subsistence of staff (eight)	46,500
5	Local transportation	4,000
6	Hospitality	1,500
7	Printing of Reports	
8	Temporary Assistance	1,200
9	Purchase of Equipment and Supply	300
10	Rental and maintenance of premises	1,000
11	Rental and maintenance of office equipment	500
12	Freight	2,500
13	Postal Services	1,000
14	Insurance	1,000
15	Miscellaneous	2,800
		<u>\$104,900*</u>

* Plus cost of printing, Item 7.
