

UNITED NATIONS
TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCIL



LIMITED

T/L.120

6 February 1951

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/FRENCH

Eighth Session
Item 3 (a) of the agenda

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ADMINISTRATION
OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF WESTERN SAMOA FOR THE YEAR
ENDING 31 MARCH 1950

Requests for Supplementary Information
(Written Questions)

I. POLITICAL CONDITIONS

(a) The Fautua:

1. Would the Special Representative provide further information on the attitude of the Samoans toward the traditional office of the Fautua in Samoan political life? (United States of America)

(b) Fono of Faipule and Legislative Assembly:

2. The Fono of Faipule (page 11) besides being the electoral body which chooses the Samoan members of the Legislative Assembly, also appears to have, at least on the consultative level, certain functions which are also those of the Assembly, in that it discusses a wide range of topics ranging from participation in self-government to matters of district welfare. Does it play the role, approximately, of an Upper House or Senate in a bicameral type of legislature? Is this the role which it may be expected to play when the political structure is at a more advanced stage? (China)

3. Would the Special Representative elaborate upon the "differences of attitude" between the Samoan members of the Legislative Assembly and the Samoan members of the Fono of Faipule which is referred to in the Report of the Visiting Mission, (T/792, p.7)? (United States of America)

4. There are at present 14 Samoans out of 26 members in the Legislative Assembly. Does the Administering Authority think that the time has come for an increase of the indigenous participation in that Assembly? (China)

5. What is the basis of the elective representation in the Assembly of the Samoans and the Europeans, particularly in view of the fact that the Europeans, including the part-Samoans, who number approximately 6,000 (page 51), have five elected members (page 10), while the Samoans, who number approximately 72,000, have only 12 elected members? (China)

/(c) Public Service:

(c) Public Service:

6. Would the Special Representative discuss the considerations which led to the decision whereby the recently appointed Public Service Commissioner of Western Samoa is responsible to the Minister of Island Territories of the New Zealand Government? What, in law and practice, is the relationship on matters of policy and administration between the High Commissioner of the Trust Territory and the Public Service Commissioner? (United States of America)

7. Page 22: Difficulties of recruiting personnel for certain important positions: Could the Special Representative give some further particulars concerning this point? (Belgium)

8. Page 22: Training of personnel: If a training institution cannot be established in New Zealand, could not the Administering Authority consider providing scholarships which would enable personnel to receive the necessary training elsewhere? (Belgium)

(d) Local Government:

9. Will the Special Representative be good enough to make available to the Council the summary of the report of the Commission of Inquiry into local government which he mentioned in his opening remarks? (China)

(e) Status of Inhabitants:

10. Would the Special Representative supply additional information on the considerations which led to the abandonment of the proposal to provide a common status as "citizens of Western Samoa" for inhabitants of the territory? (United States of America)

11. On page 14 of the Report, it is stated that a Samoan may not be enrolled as a European elector. Does that imply that a European may not be enrolled as a Samoan elector? Furthermore, which rule is to be applied to the two small classes of Samoans who retain the national status they possessed as Europeans? (China)

(f) Judiciary:

12. According to the Visiting Mission's Report (T/792), there are at present three Samoan assistant judges of the High Court sitting on the Native Land and Titles Court in an advisory capacity and the Mission has been informed by the High Commissioner that he is in favour of granting these judges a

/regular status

regular status equal to that of the European assessors. Could the Special Representative give the Council information concerning the steps taken to achieve this end? (China)

13. On page 13, the Mission's Report refers to a request of the Samoans for an equal number of Samoan and European assessors in all criminal cases before the High Court, instead of three European and one Samoan assessor as at present. The Report also states that the principle was accepted by the New Zealand Minister of Island Territories during his recent visit to Western Samoa. Would the Special Representative be good enough to apprise the Council if any steps are being taken by the Administering Authority in this regard? (China)

14. On page 13 of the Mission's Report, it is stated that up to now there are no Samoans who have obtained legal qualifications. What are these qualifications? And what has been done or what is the Administration prepared to do for the training of legal personnel so badly needed? (China)

II. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

(a) Cultivation:

15. Page 25: Increased planting of crops: Does the 1950 agricultural survey make it possible to give some figures relating to this subject? (Belgium)

(b) Export Production and Trade:

16. The report states on page 31 the details of the arrangement by which almost the whole of the Territory's production of copra is sold, under a contract extending to 1957, to the United Kingdom Ministry of Food at a price fixed annually. The price for the year 1950 was fixed at £48 10s. per ton f.o.b. Apia. Of this sum, £45 5s. is paid to the producer, and the balance goes to a stabilization fund which is a reserve against possible future price declines. While the principle of this stabilization system is appreciated, on what formula is the price paid by the United Kingdom fixed? How does it compare with the ruling price for copra on the open market? If it is lower than the market price, and in view of the continuing demand for such products as copra, has the Administering Authority considered whether it would be to the greater advantage of the Territory, while maintaining internally the principles of the stabilization system, to sell its copra at the highest price obtainable? (China)

17. Page 31: Contract with the Ministry of Food in respect of copra: On what basis was the price of £48 10s. a ton calculated? How does this price compare with world prices? (Belgium)

18. Does the statement on page 31 of the Annual Report for the year ending March 31, 1950 referring to the price paid to "Samoan producers" for copra apply equally to European producers and to the New Zealand Reparation Estates? Does the Copra Board Amendment mentioned by the Special Representative at the Seventh Session (Document T/PV.285, p.11) alter in any way the procedures described in the Annual Report for 1948-49 concerning the marketing of copra? (United States of America)

19. In connexion with the foregoing question (no. 16) is there any particular reason why the expanding export of cocoa is not controlled and stabilized as in the case of copra? Who handles the cocoa trade, and where is the Territory's cocoa sold? (China)

20. In connexion with the only other export crop, bananas, the report states (page 31) that these are sold, under the control of the Administering Authority, to the New Zealand Marketing Department "at prices fixed from time to time". On what basis are the prices fixed, and what is their relationship to the prices ruling at the time on the New Zealand market? Does the New Zealand Marketing Department realize a profit from their sale? (China)

21. Page 25: An early expansion of transport facilities for bananas is announced: Could the Special Representative give some details? (Belgium)

(c) Monopolies:

22. Page 32: Does not the Administering Authority consider that the copra purchasing contract in fact sets up a monopoly over the purchase of this product? (Belgium)

(d) New Zealand Reparation Estates:

23. Is it contemplated sooner or later to transfer the management of the New Zealand Reparation Estates, described as by far the most important individual plantation enterprise, to the Samoans? To what extent are the Samoans at this stage being associated with the management of the Estates? (China)

(e) Import, Export and Exchange Controls:

24. Would the Special Representative provide information on any further action which has been taken on the problem of the preferential tariff? (United States of America)

/25. What

25. What is the relative importance of (a) customs duties and (b) currency restrictions, particularly in respect of dollars (page 29), in regulating the normal imports of the Territory? In other words, is the flow of goods into the Territory from American and other hard-currency areas restricted more by the shortage of hard currency than by any difference in customs duties, including the preferential rate for British goods? (China)

26. The Annual Report (p.29) refers to a relaxation in the machinery for import, export and exchange controls. The Special Representative at the Seventh Session mentioned the advisability of adopting stricter exchange controls. Would the Special Representative clarify these statements and comment on the present situation in regard to this problem? (United States of America)

(f) Public Finance; Taxation:

27. The details of tax revenues shown on page 30, together with the export statistics given at the bottom of that page, indicate that out of exports valued in 1949 at more than one and a quarter million pounds, the public funds of the Territory benefited by only about £83,000, this being in the form of export duties. Is it a fact, as appears to be the case, that no other revenues for the benefit of the Territory as a whole are derived from this valuable export trade, in such form as taxes on the profits of the producers and merchants who sell the export produce? If this is the case, does the Administering Authority consider that the Territory as a whole, in view of its need for health, education, and other public services, is getting a reasonable share of its national income? (China)

28. On page 15 of the Mission's Report, it is stated that there is no income tax in Western Samoa. How is this accounted for? (China)

(g) Samoan Currency:

29. The High Commissioner, in his discussion with the Mission on the request of the Samoans for the adoption of an independent Samoan pound, said that the matter was under study by a select committee of the Legislative Assembly. Could the Special Representative inform the Council what expert advice and information have been given on this matter by the Administering Authority to that committee? What is the prospect of adopting such an independent Samoan currency? (China)

(h) Public Works:

30. Page 38: Pipelines for electricity schemes and water supplies:

/Earlier reports

Earlier reports mentioned the delay in the executions of essential works owing to the difficulties in obtaining pipes and tubes. Could not the Administering Authority consider obtaining this material outside the sterling area? (Belgium)

III. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

(a) Public Health:

31. What is the exact extent of hospital facilities in the Territory, apart from the Apia Hospital and the thirteen "district dispensary hospitals"? How many of the proposed "main district hospitals" have been built, and how many are under construction? (page 46). How many beds does the Apia Hospital possess, and how many beds are there in each of the 13 dispensary hospitals? How are these dispensary hospitals staffed, apart from the senior Samoan medical practitioner in charge of each district? What work is done in them, or supervision given to them, by the more highly-qualified European medical officers? (China).

(b) Status and Rights of Chinese:

32. The report states on page 43 that the High Commissioner has reported to the Legislative Assembly that, unless fresh legislation is enacted, the 171 Chinese persons in the Territory, being former indentured labourers, "would appear to have legally the position of free citizens". It adds that "the resulting debate showed that members were prepared to accept this position". The consequences of this attitude, however, are not explained. Is it finally established that these Chinese persons have exactly the same status in the Territory as, say, the Europeans? If so, what rights are inherent in this status? For example, what are their political rights, including that of voting for and being elected to the Legislative Assembly? (China)

IV. EDUCATIONAL CONDITIONS

(a) General and Primary Education:

33. It is apparent from the tables on pages 82 and 83 that the very great majority of the Samoan children who are at school are attending either the Administration's "village schools" or the mission's pastor or catechist schools. What is the standard of education at these schools? On page 57, the report states that the top class in the village schools has been raised to Standard 4: does this apply to all village schools? What level of education does "Standard 4" represent -- in terms, for instance, of the age of the child /and the

and the number of years at school? How many hours a day, and how many days a week, are the children in school? What is the explanation of the fact that some 14,500 children at mission schools are listed (page 83) as "not attending government schools"? (China)

34. The table on page 82 shows also that in the few Administration primary schools which are of a more advanced kind, presumably, than the village schools, more than half the pupils (500 out of 904) are children from the comparatively small European community. What is the reason for this disparity in the facilities for Europeans and Samoans? (China)

35. What is the proportion of Samoan and European children at (a) the Intermediate School, and (b) the post-primary school? (Page 58). (China)

36. At the bottom of page 57, it is stated that the standard of education at the two Samoan middle primary schools has fallen because of lack of trained staff and also because "much of the boys' time and efforts have been towards the growing and preparation of food". On the next page, the report suggests that the standard of these schools is going to be kept low as a matter of policy, with the emphasis not so much on education as on sending the boys back to their villages "to engender the people with the idea of greater food production and deeper understanding of the value of their land and natural amenities". While these objectives are reasonable in themselves, especially in an agricultural country, would it not be preferable at the present stage to raise such few schools as exist to a higher level of education? (China)

37. How many children of school age are there in the Chinese community, and to what schools do they have access? (China)

(b) Teachers:

38. From the details of school staffs given at various points on pages 55-59, the impression is gained that the majority, and even the great majority, of the New Zealand and European teachers are on the staffs either of the two schools which are exclusively for European-status children, or of those few other schools to which both Samoan and European children are admitted. It is obvious that this fact may have a bearing on the standard of education of the Samoan children, especially if there is any substantial disparity between the qualifications of the European and Samoan teachers. Can an explanation be given on this matter? (China)

/(c) Post-primary

(c) Post-primary Education:

39. Would the Special Representative provide information on the organization, scope and facilities which are proposed for the new Somoa College? (United States of America)