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CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF NAURU

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

CORRIGENDUM

Note: The Drafting Committee on Nauru has approved the following modifications to document T/L.355. These are based on the statements made before the Council by the representative of Australia.

II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

Nauruan Local Government Council

1. On page 6 of document T/L.355, delete the last two sentences of the first paragraph and substitute the following: "Unlike those of the former Council, the members of the new body are elected by universal suffrage. The Administering Authority states that the new Council also has fairly wide powers to participate in the legislative work of the community and also to engage in business undertakings, which the Council of Chiefs did not have. Its composition, powers and functions are defined by ordinance; the Council of Chiefs had no statutory basis."
2. On the same page, add at the end of the last complete paragraph: "It stated at the twelfth session that the new Council has not availed itself of all the powers which were granted to it by ordinance, but there was no doubt that its members would do so when the implications of the ordinance were made clear to them."

Participation of Nauruans in the administration

3. On page 8, add after the last paragraph: "The representative of the Administering Authority informed the Council at its twelfth session that the Local Government Council had since elected a new Head Chief who was also Acting Native Affairs Officer."

III. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

General

4. On page 11, paragraph 2, delete the reference to the "Council of Chiefs" and substitute "Local Government Council."

Public Finance: Phosphate Royalties

5. On pages 14 and 15, delete the last and first paragraphs respectively and insert the following: "The major part of the cost of the Administration was until recently met from the proceeds of the royalty of 1/s. and from payments made by the Phosphate Commissioners in respect of customs duties and other charges. In addition, the Phosphate Commissioners agreed in 1946-1947 to advance to the Administration two sums of money, one to cover the cost of the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the island and the other to cover the cost of Nauruan housing. At its twelfth session, however, the Administering Authority informed the Council that as from the financial year 1952-1953 the British Phosphate Commissioners were paying the Nauru Administration a sum to cover the whole estimated annual Administration expenditure and charges in place of the royalty of 1/s. per ton on phosphate exported and the commutation of payments in respect of customs duties. For the year 1952-1953 the sum involved, £162,000, was the equivalent of 3s. 3d. per ton of phosphate.

"The amount fixed for the rehabilitation advance in 1946-1947 was £200,000 but as this proved inadequate, it was subsequently increased to £300,000 and again in 1951-1952 to £350,000. The total payment as of June 1952 from this advance amounted to £325,000 which is repayable with interest. The second advance for Nauruan housing, amounted to £200,000. To repay these advances the Administration levies two royalties on the British Phosphate Commissioners. These royalties each amounted to 9d. per ton of phosphate exported during the year ending 30 June 1952. As from 1 July 1952, however, according to information received by the Council at its twelfth session, the rehabilitation royalty was increased to 10-1/2d. per ton."

IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

Labour

6. On page 23, delete paragraphs 3 and 4 and insert the following: "According to information given by the representative of the Administering Authority at the twelfth session of the Council, the wage rate of Nauruan employees of the British Phosphate Commissioners was increased as from 14 April 1953, from 8s. 8d. to 12/-s. per day, equal to about £175 per annum,

plus a midday meal valued at E40 per annum. With this increase, the wife allowance was discontinued, but the child's allowance was retained.

"The Commissioners also authorized an increase as of 14 April 1953 in the basic wage rate of Chinese and Gilbertese labourers employed by the Commissioners from E8 to E9 per month, plus existing margins and adjustment for overtime rates. Wages under E8 were proportionately adjusted and the wages of Chinese mechanics were raised by E1.10s. Od. per month (In July 1950 Chinese mechanics received from E14 to E16 per month)."

7. On page 23, after the first sentence in the last paragraph, add the following: "At its twelfth session the Administering Authority informed the Council that a further increase had been granted as from 1 July 1952. Under the new arrangements the minimum wage rate for Nauruan employees had been increased to E191 per annum, based on the living costs of a man and his wife. As a consequence, the additional wife allowance previously paid was discontinued, but the child's allowance was retained."

Health

8. On page 27, add at the end of the first paragraph, a new paragraph as follows: "The representative of the Administering Authority informed the Council at its twelfth session that approval had been given for the construction of a new administration hospital with a capacity of twenty-five beds and with facilities which the Administering Authority considered would be adequate for the needs of the Nauruan community."

V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

9. On page 28, third paragraph, add after the words "(26 boys and 18 girls)" the following: "and in March, 1953, 58 pupils".

10. On page 28, last paragraph, add after the first sentence: "By 31 March 1953 the number had increased to 35. Of the 23 students abroad in 1952, two male students were at the Central Medical School..." (resuming original text).