

TRUSTEESHIP
COUNCILDistr.
LIMITEDT/L.859
3 July 1958

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Twenty-second session
Agenda item 3 (d)

CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Report of the Drafting CommitteeChairman: Mr. H.K. YANG (China)

1. At its 905th meeting on 27 June 1958, the Trusteeship Council appointed a Drafting Committee composed of the representatives of Belgium, China, Guatemala and New Zealand to propose, on the basis of the discussions which had taken place in the Council, conclusions and recommendations on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and to make recommendations concerning the chapter on conditions in that Territory for inclusion in the next report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council.
2. The Drafting Committee held four meetings at the first of which it elected Mr. H.K. Yang (China) as its Chairman. The Committee had the assistance of the Special Representative of the Administering Authority.
3. The Drafting Committee had before it the Secretariat working paper (T/L.850) as revised (T/L.850/Add.1) to take into account such additional information as became available during the Council's examination of the annual report on the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.
4. In the light of the general discussion in the Council on conditions in the Territory, the Committee drafted a number of conclusions and recommendations which it considered as reflecting the opinions of the majority of the members of the Council and which are set forth in annex I of the present report.
5. The Committee recommends to the Trusteeship Council that it adopt the revised working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/L.850 and Add.1) as the basic text for the chapter on conditions in that

Territory to be included in the next report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council and that it also adopt the conclusions and recommendations set out in annex I below and include them at the end of each appropriate section or sub-section of the chapter.

6. The Committee further recommends to the Trusteeship Council that it adopt the separate section set out in annex II below and include it at the end of the chapter. The representatives of Belgium and New Zealand did not participate in the drafting of annex II to the present report and reserve their position in this regard in the Trusteeship Council.

ANNEX I

Conclusions and recommendations proposed by the Committee

I. GENERAL

General considerations

1. The Council deeply regrets the loss of life resulting from the recent typhoons in the Marshall Islands and expresses its sympathy with the people who suffered from these disasters. It notes with gratification the generous measures initiated promptly for the relief and long-range rehabilitation of the affected areas.

Displacement of population due to nuclear experiments

2. The Council notes with satisfaction the measures taken to promote the health conditions and the rehabilitation of the displaced islanders. It further notes that the Kili and Ujelong people have begun to benefit from the trust funds established for them by the Administering Authority.
3. The Council also notes that the Rongelap people have been returned to their homes and expresses its confidence that with the continued assistance of the Administering Authority they will soon be able to adjust themselves to the normal atoll life.

II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

Development of Representative, Executive and Legislative Organs and Extension of their Powers

(a) General

4. The Council commends the Administering Authority for the manner in which it continued to pursue its policy of developing effective political organs of self-government in the Territory during the year under review.
5. The Council welcomes in particular the decision taken, following the successful Inter-District Conference of Micronesian Leaders held in 1957, to hold similar conferences on an annual basis in the future. It further welcomes the establishment of a unicameral district congress in Truk and the steps which are being taken to transform existing bicameral district legislative organs into unicameral legislatures in which all members will be elected. The Council

notes the statement of the Administering Authority that its systematic programme for chartering municipalities throughout the Territory has met with considerable interest among the communities with which charters have been discussed. It further notes that the number of municipalities chartered during the period under review was smaller than originally anticipated owing to the desire of some local communities to embark on programmes of local political education before requesting formal charters from the Administration.

(b) Administration of the Territory

6. The Council, being aware of the existing administrative arrangements which limit the possibility of establishing a centralized administration within the Territory in the near future, nevertheless expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will continue to keep under review the possibility of transferring the Headquarters from Guam to a site within the Territory and to placing the entire Territory under a single civilian authority.

Development of universal suffrage and direct elections

7. The Council notes that in the Palau District the minimum voting age has been reduced from twenty-six years to twenty-one during the year under review. In this connexion, the Council is confident that the district congresses will come to understand the advantages of establishing a uniform qualifying age for elections.

of the Administration: Training and appointment of indigenous persons for positions of responsibility

The Council notes with satisfaction the progress made by the Administering Authority in its policy of appointing an increasing number of adequately trained Micronesians to responsible positions in the Administration.

III. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

Financial situation: Development of adequate public revenue

9. The Council, bearing in mind the desire of the Administering Authority that Micronesians should develop their own sources of revenue and increase their sense of financial responsibility, notes with interest that it is the intention of the Administration to introduce a more equitable and uniform taxation system

into the Territory and that a start will be made towards establishing an income tax programme in the next year.

10. The Council is confident also that in determining its contribution to the budget of the Territory the Administering Authority will give full consideration to the need to develop the resources of the Territory by all possible means, including the use of subsidies in pursuing its economic and social programmes.

Industrial possibilities

11. The Council notes the statement of the Administering Authority that during the year under review a subsistence fishing project was initiated in Saipan and that an experimental commercial fishing project was planned for the Palau district where it was hoped that a small pilot canning plant would eventually be operated also.

12. The Council expresses the hope that, in view of the marine resources of the Territory, the results of these experiments will permit the expansion of these projects into a full-scale fishing industry adapted to the needs of the Territory and requests the Administering Authority to include in its future annual reports information on the progress achieved in this respect.

Commerce and trade

13. The Council, noting with satisfaction that a Micronesian has been appointed as a member of the Copra Stabilization Board, expresses the hope that the success of this appointment will lead the Administering Authority to examine ways of associating additional producer representatives with the work of the Board.

IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

Medical and health services

14. The Council commends the Administering Authority for the success of the health training programme for Micronesians and notes with satisfaction that the Micronesian medical staff of the Palau District effectively brought under control the recent large-scale influenza epidemic.

V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

15. The Council commends the Administering Authority for the progress achieved in the educational field and for its policy of providing financial assistance to local communities in the construction of new school buildings and other facilities. The Council welcomes the statement of the Administering Authority that the success of the teacher training programme for the Truk District has led to the planning of similar programmes at all district centres, that vocational education has been given increasing emphasis at all intermediate schools and that the development of educational materials written in the local vernaculars and adapted for the local cultures has moved forward in all districts. The Council expresses the hope that, with the development of these materials, the libraries in the primary schools of the Territory will be strengthened.

16. The Council notes with satisfaction that an increasing number of Micronesian students is receiving higher education outside the Territory, that scholarships have been granted in almost every district for advanced training abroad and that a new and special type of scholarship programme intended to provide full university training in selected fields has been established.

ANNEX II

VI. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERMEDIATE TARGET DATES AND FINAL
TIME LIMITS FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF SELF-GOVERNMENT OR
INDEPENDENCE

1. The policy of the Administering Authority was summarized in a previous report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council.^{1/} Additional information is contained in the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year under review. At its twentieth session the Council recalled its recommendation adopted at the eighteenth session concerning the indication of intermediate targets and dates in the political and other fields and noted that the development of representative bodies, local government institutions and the participation of indigenous persons in the administration appeared to be in conformity with the recommendation recalled above. The Council expressed the hope that this method of development would be extended to other fields.
2. At its twenty-second session, the special representative stated, by reference to the interest expressed by the Council in previous years concerning the establishment of target dates, that to attempt to attain rigidly a series of target dates could seriously and adversely affect the orderly and proper progress towards desirable political, economic and social goals. On the other hand target dates, provided there was flexibility, were essential to good planning, and the targets enumerated below were thought by the Administration to be worthy of accomplishment. He pointed out that the Administration of the Territory desired to achieve these dates, but at no time should sight be lost of the fact that the manner in which the goal was reached was as important, if not more so, than the mere attaining of target dates.
3. It was envisaged that district unicameral congresses would exist by 1960 in Ponape, the Marshall Islands, Truk and Palau. An average of ten municipalities would be chartered each year for the next five years and the present Inter-District Advisory Committee to the High Commissioner would be developed into an elected Territorial Advisory Council by 1965. The special representative stated that it was becoming increasingly clear that the enactment

^{1/} S/3636, paras. 308-311.

by 1960 of previously announced organic legislation was not a realistic goal, but he assured the Council that it was the intention of the Administering Authority to press forward with the legislation as rapidly as practicable.

4. He stated that if the present training programme continued successfully, it was anticipated that within eight to ten years all district finance and supply personnel would be Micronesians. Two Micronesians who had recently been given special scholarships to study law would assume the positions of public prosecutor and public defender by 1965 provided they completed their studies successfully and demonstrated the necessary ability. By 1959, all but two districts of the Territory were expected to have Micronesian district directors of public health and the remaining two districts, it is anticipated, will have such district directors by 1963. Within eight years each district was expected to have a Micronesian director of education and by 1961 a fully trained Micronesian would have charge of a district agricultural programme.

5. At its twenty-second session, the Council adopted the following conclusions:

The Council recalling its previous recommendations concerning the indication of intermediate targets and dates in the political and other fields, takes note of the revised targets and dates as provided by the Administering Authority during the twenty-second session of the Council.

The Council notes with satisfaction that a district congress in Truk was established three years ahead of estimated target date.

The Council welcomes the estimated targets and dates in all fields and expresses its confidence that the population of the Territory will continue to co-operate with the Administering Authority in their implementation.
