

# UNITED NATIONS

## TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL



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### CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

#### Report of the Drafting Committee

Chairman: Mr. Michel de CAMARET (France)

1. At its 808th meeting on 7 June 1957, the Trusteeship Council appointed a Drafting Committee composed of the representatives of Burma, France, Haiti and the United Kingdom 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 two meetings at the first of which it elected Mr. Michel de Camaret (France) as its Chairman. The Committee had the assistance of the Special Representative of the Administering Authority.
3. The Drafting Committee decided to recommend that the Secretariat working paper (T/L.769) as revised (T/L.769/Add.1) to take into account such additional information as became available during the examination of the annual report by the Council or was required to clarify certain other points in the light of these discussions, should be adopted by the Council as the basic text for the chapter on conditions in 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 accordingly recommends to the Trusteeship Council that it adopt the working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/L.769 and Add.1) as the basic text for the chapter on conditions in that

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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 France and the United Kingdom, however, reserve the position of their delegation in regard to this matter.

ANNEX I

Conclusions and recommendations proposed by the Committee

I. GENERAL

General considerations

1. The Council commends the Administering Authority and the Micronesian people for the general progress achieved in the Trust Territory during the year under review.

Displacement of populations due to nuclear experiments

2. The Council notes with satisfaction that the people of Rongelap who suffered ill effects from nuclear experiments in 1954, will be returning to their island in the immediate future, and requests the Administering Authority to include in its next annual report detailed information on their resettlement as well as their readjustment to living conditions on the island.

3. The Council notes with interest that a settlement has been arrived at to compensate the former residents of Bikini and Eniwetok for having been displaced in 1946-1947. It further notes that the Administering Authority has undertaken to include in its next annual report the full text of this agreement.

II. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

Consultations with the inhabitants in regard to measures taken or contemplated towards self-government

4. The Council notes with interest that a Micronesian leaders conference was successfully held in Guam in August 1956 and that the participants had been elected by representative organs in each district of the Territory. It further notes with satisfaction that a similar conference has been scheduled for August 1957, and expresses the hope that the Administering Authority's policy of encouraging the holding of inter-district meetings of Micronesian leaders and representatives, as frequently as possible, will constitute an important step towards the promotion of a territorial consciousness.

Development of representative, executive and legislative organs and extension of their powers

(a) General

5. The Council commends the Administering Authority for the manner in which it is encouraging the indigenous inhabitants to participate in local government and congratulates the population for its participation in this Government.

(b) Administration of the Territory

6. The Council notes that three features of the organization of the Territory limit the possibility of a centralized administration: (i) the fact that the Headquarters of the Territory are located on Guam, outside of the Trust Territory, (ii) the fact that some of the central administrative departments are located in different districts and (iii) the fact that the Saipan district is under the immediate authority of the Navy. While noting the statement of the Administering Authority that the present arrangements are quite satisfactory, and that no early transfer of the Headquarters can be foreseen, the Council again expresses the opinion that a move of Headquarters from Guam to a site within the Territory will make it possible to further centralize the administration of the entire Territory under a single civilian authority, and recommends that the Administering Authority continue to examine this question and mention it in its future annual reports.

(c) Local Government

7. The Council notes with interest that an official charter will be granted to the Truk District Congress at an early date, and that other district congresses, with democratically elected representatives, will be functioning in the course of the next few years. It further welcomes the efforts made by the Administering Authority to increase the political activity of the municipalities, to extend their competence and to introduce a larger measure of uniformity in their structure, composition and functioning.

Staff of the Administration; training and appointment of indigenous persons for positions of responsibility

8. The Council notes with interest the completion of the conversion programme of American personnel to the United States Civil Service. It reiterates its approval of the Administering Authority's 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 notes with interest that a tax study was recently conducted in the Territory, and that the Administering Authority will now find it possible to raise revenues through direct taxation. The Council, recalling its previous observation that in spite of the substantial contribution made by the Administering Authority to the budget of the Territory, even greater subsidies may be needed for speeding up development programmes, urges the Administering Authority to develop the resources of the Territory by all possible means.

#### Agriculture

10. The Council notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the Administering Authority to establish experimental and demonstration stations in the Territory and to recruit additional agricultural specialists. The Council recommends that vigorous efforts be made to accelerate the homesteading programme with a view to bringing under cultivation additional land.

#### Land tenure and claims

11. The Council notes with satisfaction the progress made during the year under review in the settlement of all land claims in the Truk District and expresses the hope that all outstanding land claims in other districts will be settled as soon as possible.

#### Industrial possibilities

12. The Council recalls its recommendation made at the eighteenth session that the Administration take energetic steps to explore, encourage and accelerate the industrial development of the Territory.

#### Commerce and trade

13. The Council notes with interest the effective functioning of the Copra Stabilization Fund in maintaining stable prices to producers despite a fluctuating world market. The Council also notes with satisfaction the efforts made by the Administering Authority to inform the people of the Trust Territory of the operations and purposes of the Copra Stabilization Board and welcomes the statement of the Special Representative to the effect that the Administering Authority would examine the possibility of Micronesian representation on this Board.

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### Transportation

14. The Council recommends that the Administering Authority continue to devote its closest attention to improving the shipping facilities of the Territory and expresses the hope that the Administering Authority will extend training to Micronesian personnel with a view to enabling them to assume an increasing share of responsibility in the transportation system in the Territory.

## IV. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

### Medical and health services

15. The Council commends the Administering Authority for its efforts in the field of public health, and in particular for having initiated a Territory-wide programme of BCG vaccination, and having appointed Micronesians to responsible positions. It also notes with interest that the Administering Authority hopes to have available for several months during the current year the services of a health educator through the auspices of WHO to advise the Education and Health Departments of the Territory on their health education programme.

## V. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

### General

16. The Council notes with satisfaction the progress made in the field of education during the year under review and commends the observations of UNESCO (T/1323) to the attention of the Administering Authority.

### Teachers

17. The Council notes the statement of the Administering Authority that the problem of raising and standardizing elementary school teachers' salaries is receiving the attention of the local legislative bodies and expresses the hope that such attention will continue so that the teachers' salaries will reach an adequate level in the near future.



ANNEX II

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

1. The policy of the Administering Authority is summarized in the previous report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council.<sup>1/</sup> No additional information is contained in the annual report of the Administering Authority for the year under review.

2. At its twentieth session the Council adopted the following conclusion and recommendation:

The Council reiterates the view expressed at its eighteenth session that an indication of intermediate targets and dates in the political field may give the Territory a stronger sense of purpose and direction in achieving its final goals, and tend to further develop an atmosphere of understanding and confidence in which the Territory would be able to move ahead more rapidly and harmoniously. The Council recommends once again that the Administering Authority continue to keep the Council informed of its successive intermediate targets and dates in the political, economic, social and educational fields, and of the measures taken with a view to creating the conditions necessary for the attainment of self-government or independence.

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<sup>1/</sup> S/3636, paras. 308-311.