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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE FOUR HUNDRED AND SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 19 March 1952, at 2.30 p.m.

President:

Sir Alan BURNS

(United Kingdom)

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.402 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

EXAMINATION OF ANNUAL REPORTS OF ADMINISTERING AUTHORITIES ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF TRUST TERRITORIES: NAURU, YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1951 (T/924, T/956; T/L.242) [S(b)] (continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. J.B. Halligan, special representative for Nauru under Australian Administration, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT (continued)

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Visiting Mission to Nauru indicates on page 21 of its report the existence of a system of segregation. This system of segregation is well known, and not only on the basis of this report.

I should like to know what measures have been taken by the Administering Authority to eliminate this system of segregation to which I have just alluded.

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): The question, as I understood it, was what had been done with regard to segregation. A reference was made to the report of the Visiting Mission. Could I ask for the question to be amplified and could I be given a reference to the report and a reference to the present annual report in which any such statement concerning segregation was made?

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I refer to page 21 of the report of the Visiting Mission (T/790).

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): I do not have a copy of that report before me, and I shall endeavour to answer the question if it is elaborated.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (Interpretation from Russian): The indigenous population of the Trust Territory in question has been put into such conditions...

also live separately from the indigenous population as well as from the Chinese workers. In addition, there are various limitations on the movements of the indigenous population of Nauru. Thus it can be said that a system of segregation is practised with respect to the indigenous population of the Trust Territory and this is indicated in the report of the Visiting Mission. I am interested in ascertaining what measures have been taken by the Administering Authority during the period reported on for the elimination of this system of segregation.

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): The reference was to page 21 of the report of the Visiting Mission, of which I now have a copy. On page 21 of the report there is a map of Nauru. However, I shall endeavour to answer the question without seeing the passage in the report to which I have been referred.

The Island of Nauru, as is known, is a small area with a circumference of twelve miles and is divided into fourteen districts. These are largely the traditional areas of the Nauruan people before the European settlement on the Island. Those Nauruans continue to live in their districts, just as they have always done, since outside workers have been brought into the area. The Chinese workers connected with the British Phosphate Commission are located in an area in the Ewa district, to the number of some fifteen thousand. The Europeans working on the British Phosphate Commission's European staff are in an area close to Ewa. The Administration staff is in another portion, in the Menen district, and the Missions are in two separate places on the island.

The Nauruan population is not living in segregation. As I have explained, they are living in the various districts. The Chinese who are brought there for the purpose of working in the phosphate fields are located in one area, and the reason for this is that it is considered in the best interests of the indigenous Nauruan population that that arrangement should be made.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): On page 21 of the report of the Visiting Mission, document T/790, in the section on social advancement, under the heading "General Situation", we find the following:

"59. The Mission found that the three races on the Island live in conditions of fairly complete segregation. The various communities do work together on the job, but generally in different capacities and under widely different terms of employment. Otherwise, there is little, if any, social contact.

"60. This segregation is to some extent legally enforceable under the terms of the Movement of Natives Ordinance, which also applies to Chinese. Chinese must at all times be in possession of a pass signed by the Labour Inspector when leaving their small location, and Nauruans must have a pass, signed by the Chief, if they wish to be absent from the district in which they live after ten p.m. at night. The Trusteeship Council took exception to the

terms of this ordinance at its fifth session, but so far no action to amend or repeal it has been taken, though the Mission was informed that the matter was under consideration and that the ordinance was not rigidly enforced. During the year ended 30 June 1949, 22 Chinese and 61 Nauruans were convicted of offences under the ordinance and fines of up to 15/- were imposed. Furthermore, spokesmen for the Chinese community, which requested the abolition of this pass system, stated that when absent from the location, they were always required to have passes, which were usually granted only on Sundays.

"61. Side by side with this policy of segregation, there are important differences in the way the various communities are treated by the Administration and the British Phosphate Commissioners..."

As I previously stated, then, there appears on page 21 of the report of the Visiting Mission a description of this system of segregation, and it is a system of segregation not only of Chinese workers but of the indigenous population as well. Moreover, there is also a limitation on the movement of the Chinese workers as well as of the indigenous population.

The answer of the special representative, as it stood, was not at all responsive to the question I put. In view of the comment by the Visiting Mission which I have just read, I should like to have detailed information on this question.

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): The representative of the Soviet Union continues to say that he is quoting from page 21 of the report of the Visiting Mission. I am endeavouring to get into step with him by reading from the same document from which he is reading. But page 21, as I have said, contains a map. I would ask the representative of the Soviet Union to give me the reference more clearly.

The PRESIDENT: Is the representative of the Soviet Union quoting from the printed report or from the mimeographed report?

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): The mimeographed report.

The PRESIDENT: I would suggest that the special representative refer to the numbered paragraphs mentioned by the representative of the Soviet Union. They were paragraphs 59, 60 and 61.

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): Thank you; I have them before me now. I am looking at the statements made there, and I maintain the reply that I have already given: that the Territory itself is divided into fourteen districts and the Nauruans live in some part of each of those districts. They live in all parts of some of the districts, but, in two or three districts, certain areas have been reserved for occupation by Chinese, in one case, and for the Administration settlement and the British Phosphate Commission settlement, in the other case. That arrangement is necessary in the interests of the Nauruan people.

As to the reference to the attitude of the Trusteeship Council on this matter, the subject was reviewed and the Administrator was asked to examine the question, and also the legislation, to see whether or not it was practicable to repeal the legislation or to modify any restrictions that are not now enforced. That refers to the statement already made that the conditions of the ordinance are liberally enforced. The Administrator was asked whether, if that was the case, it would not be possible to repeal any provisions not required. He replied that he did not consider that it would be practicable at this stage to make any alterations either in the procedure that was being followed in the liberal interpretation of the ordinance or in the ordinance itself.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): Of course, the phrase "liberal interpretation" has a different meaning, as have all such phrases, depending on who is using it. For example, as far as I am concerned, I do not consider that a state of affairs in which twenty-two Chinese and sixty-one Nauruans were convicted in the year ending 30 June 1949 indicates that there is a liberal application of the ordinance. That is all the more true since the fines were as high as 15 shillings. This has also taken place during the period that we are now considering. I should like to have the special representative give clarification as to the number of persons sentenced on the basis of this ordinance of the Trust Territory. I do not recall the data right now but I am sure that, when we receive clarification, we shall see that there is additional evidence of the fact that there is no liberal application of the law in this case. After all, the situation is that the owners of Nauru,

the indigenous population of Nauru, are put in a position in which they have no freedom of movement in their own country. The special representative has said that, after twenty-five years, there is compulsory education in Nauru. I should like to have information from the special representative to show us how this ordinance is applied during this present period -- in other words, as regards the movement of the native population.

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): I should like to reply, first, to the general statement made that the Nauruans have no freedom in their own country. I have already explained the situation in Nauru, and there is no need for me to repeat it to indicate that it is not as has been stated. The Nauruans live in all districts of Nauru except that area in one district which has been reserved for occupation by the Chinese workers who are brought in to work in the phosphate fields, the European section where the phosphate employees live and the Administration section.

With regard to the convictions, the European magistrate convicted five Nauruans and twenty-four Chinese for offences against Section 3 (1), referring to natives being in the European part of the British Phosphate Commission settlement between sunrise and sunset, and five Chinese for offences against Section 4 (1), referring to natives being out of their respective districts between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. The Nauruan magistrate convicted forty-five Nauruans for offences against Section 4 (1), which again, of course, has reference to natives being out of their respective districts.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): What has just been stated by the special representative and what the Visiting Mission told us confirm once more that there is a limitation on the movement of the indigenous population. It is not only that they are not allowed to proceed into the area where the Chinese workers live. Even if that alone were the case, it would still be unfair and improper. In actual fact, however, the situation seems much more serious. The special representative himself has just stated that about forty persons were convicted because they left the areas in which they lived without permission. In addition, the report of the Visiting Mission states:

"Chinese must at all times be in possession of a pass signed by the Labour Inspector when leaving their small location, and Nauruans must have a pass, signed by the Chief, if they wish to be absent from the district in which they live after 10 p.m. at night."

It is not only a question, then, of preventing the indigenous population from penetrating into the area where the Chinese workers live. In actual fact, we see that they cannot leave their own area after 10 p.m. without a special pass. I should like to know until what hour they have no right to move. Is it from 10 p.m. until 5 or 6 a.m., or perhaps even later than 5 or 6 a.m., that they cannot move out of that area?

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): The section relating to the natives remaining in the area has further relation to the responsibilities and duties of the Chiefs of the various districts in regard to the maintenance of order in their respective districts.

I was looking for a copy of the ordinance from which to read the hours, but a copy is not immediately available. However, the restricted hours are between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. But that is where the liberal interpretation of the ordinance comes in, because generally, I think, the hour is somewhat later than that -- either 11 o'clock or midnight.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): It cannot be considered proper for such restrictions to exist on the movement of the indigenous population in its own territory. Such regulations should be repealed immediately. Then, too, the special representative is stating the situation incorrectly when he says that this ordinance is liberally applied, when the fact is that during one year forty persons were convicted for violating this ordinance. That, in itself, is evidence of the fact that there is no liberal interpretation at all involved here. In any event, these regulations should be repealed immediately. If they are not repealed by the Administering Authority, it indicates that, in spite of the fact that there is a statement to the effect that compulsory education exists in the Trust Territory, this educational programme is so implemented by the Administering Authority in the Trust Territory that, instead of ensuring the education of the indigenous population, improper police measures of this sort are introduced. An end should be put to such regulations.

As regards the special representative's statement here, I should like to say that it does not in any way justify such measures. In whose interests are these measures applied?

My next question pertains to pages 22 and 23 of the report of the Visiting Mission, document T/790. I should like to ask what measures have been undertaken to eliminate discrimination with respect to wages and the length of the working day for the Europeans as compared with the Chinese, on the one hand, ^{and} the Nauruans, on the other.

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): There are two points in that question, as I understand it: first, the length of the working day; second, the matter of wages as between Chinese and Europeans.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): That was not quite the question. I asked what measures had been taken by the Administering Authority to do away with discrimination in the matter of the wages and the length of the working day as between the Europeans and the Chinese and Nauruans.

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): As to the working day, the basis of employment on Nauru is a working week of forty-four hours. In the case of Europeans employed in Australia under conditions of a forty-hour week, such people are employed for a forty-hour week and receive overtime when they work the other four hours that are necessary for them to comply with the forty-four-hour week on Nauru. Not everyone works those extra four hours, but, when they do, the situation is as I have described it.

In the case of office workers, the weekly hours are thirty-six and three quarters. The Chinese workers are not in the category of the Nauruans who work a forty-four^{hour}/week. As I have already explained, the wages are fixed on the basis applicable to the work which is to be undertaken, and are assessed in accordance with the responsibilities and duties of those particular classes of positions.

As far as Australian employees are concerned, it can be stated generally that in order to obtain people from Australia we have to accept the Australian standard of payment. Likewise, in order to obtain people from other countries, the starting point is at least the standard of wages for that type of job in that country, and even something better than that. That is what is done in the case of Nauru.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I am not satisfied with this answer and I will reserve my comments on this question when the Council discusses the report of the Administering Authority.

The PRESIDENT: As there are no other questions on social advancement, the Trusteeship Council will now consider the section on educational advancement.

EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

Mr. KRIDAKON (Thailand): According to the information which appears on page 52 of the report, there are 44 European pupils attending school. Could the special representative tell us how many of these pupils are children of the European staff^{of} the Phosphate Commissioners, and how many are children of the European staff of the Administration?

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): The European staff of the Administration is about twenty, and the balance are employees of the British Phosphate Commissioners. I am mentioning those facts in order to make a calculation. I would say that 80 to 90 per cent would be children of the employees of the Phosphate Commissioners.

Mr. KRIDAKON (Thailand): I take it then, from the answer of the special representative, that the majority of the forty-four pupils are children of the European staff of the Phosphate Commissioners?

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): That is correct.

Mr. KRIDAKON (Thailand): I have asked this question for the following reason: If the majority of the children are those of the European staff of the Phosphate Commissioners, as it appears to be, then it seems to me that it would be most appropriate to ask the Commissioners to defray the expenses for the education of these children and not charge it to the Administration's general fund, as is now the practice. This would permit the expenditure for education from the Administration's general fund to be devoted exclusively for the education of Nauruans, and the cost of scholarships could be covered by the Nauruan Royalty Trust Fund.

This is the only observation which my delegation wishes to make on the report of Nauru. My delegation is satisfied that the Administering Authority has made progress in the administration of Nauru. In order to save the time of the Trusteeship Council, I should like to take this opportunity to compliment the authorities for the progress achieved during the period under review.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I recall that at the eighth session of the Trusteeship Council, in our discussion on the educational advancement of Nauru, the special representative then noted that "the Nauruan teachers now working in school certainly lack the fundamental general education that is needed". This information appears in the official records of the Trusteeship Council, the eighth session, page 151.

This is a perennial question which concerns the Council with regard to all Trust Territories and its solution is not likely to be an easy or quick one. In other words, how are we going to teach a sufficient number of particular indigenous inhabitants to become adequate and effective teachers in the schools of the Trust Territory? I note that a number of Nauruan students are receiving secondary education abroad. I believe that the report states that eighteen are studying abroad and the special representative, in the statement which he made yesterday, quoted that same figure. I should like to ask the special representative whether these eighteen are receiving professional full-time training as teacher candidates. In other words are any of those eighteen receiving training to become professional teachers?

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): Nine students out of the eighteen are in Australia for the purpose of training to be teachers ultimately. At the present stage they are receiving a general education, but the course planned for their training is a teacher course, which will result in their becoming teachers.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I should like to ask another question with regard to secondary education, which the report states is being given on the Island. The following statement appears at the top of page 23 of the report:

"During the year the Department of Education was able to resume secondary education for the Nauruans and opened a school for this purpose in temporary premises."

A similar statement appears on page 22 under the heading of "Educational Advancement". The report fails to indicate the character of that secondary education, and I would appreciate learning a little more about it. In other words, what is the educational programme to be offered in this secondary school education? What is the curriculum? What is the size of the teaching staff? What are the physical facilities being planned, and so forth? I am sure all of us would appreciate it if the special representative could give us a little better picture of the present and planned secondary education in Nauru.

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): It would take us some time to give a full and accurate picture of all those details. It would be better to describe the information in writing. I shall therefore include the information in the next report and just deal with the question in general terms at this time. I would say that secondary education is the education, in Australian standards, beyond the sixth grade; it is higher than the sixth grade. The sixth grade teaching deals with spelling, dictation, grammar, composition, literature, history, and geography. The secondary school would deal with an advanced stage of those subjects. As of 15 February of this year there were forty pupils in secondary education. I believe that the number thirty has been recorded as of the end of the year, but that number is now forty. Those pupils are taught by the Director of Education and by the Senior Nauruan Teacher. The Director of Education has recently completed his time of office there and he was in Canberra when I discussed these matters with him. A new appointee will be taking up duty very soon to take charge of that secondary education as a full-time job.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I am not quite sure whether I infer from what the special representative has said that there will be more than one school for secondary education. I am wondering whether the plans are to have the secondary education in one single school, or whether there will be two or more secondary schools.

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): For the present there is one secondary school. As the report mentions, that is a temporary building. The plans are now being designed for further education, to include a secondary school. Those plans have not been decided upon completely. As far as I am aware at this time, there will be one secondary school only, although, as I say, a firm decision has not been taken. I think it is very likely that there will not be more than one secondary school.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I hope that in the report for next year there will be a much fuller description of this problem of secondary education and how it is being met, than in the very cursory statement to which I have just reverted. I hope and trust that in the report for next year we can have a full description of what steps have been taken to meet this problem.

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): I shall endeavour to arrange that, as well as the considerable details asked by the representative of the United States with respect to curriculum and all other matters in relation to the school. I shall endeavour to arrange that such information be included in the next report.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I should like to ask one further question with respect to expenditures. On page 35 of the report, in appendix 4, I see that the expenditure for "native education" has had a gratifying advance as between 1949-1950 on the one hand and 1950-1951 on the other hand. The advance is from £4,471 to £5,936. I am sure that all of us feel considerably gratified with that advance. Then I note, with still greater interest, that the estimates for 1951-1952 are set at £11,500. That is particularly gratifying if it means an increase in the actual expenditures placed upon education. I should like to ask a further question, but perhaps I have said

enough to begin with. Could the special representative explain those advances and what is planned in the way of educational expenditures and why the increase is so great in the estimates over 1950-1951? We feel greatly pleased over those advances and we hope that it does mean an improvement and increase in educational facilities.

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): The main reason for the increase is the fact that the costs of the students sent outside the Territory for education are charged against this expenditure, and the increased number during 1952 necessitates an increased amount of financial provision to meet the cost of such education. The other reason for the increase was partly for the re-establishment of the secondary school. Those were the two reasons, apart from the natural increase which would no doubt be about the same as the previous year. The doubling of the financial provision during this year would mainly be due to the commencement of secondary education and the provision for the increased number of students going outside the Territory for education.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I am sure that all of us will be gratified by that increase. On page 15 of the report, under expenditures for education during the year under consideration I note no amount listed for capital works and services, but there are expenditures listed for all of the other departments. What is the explanation of that, particularly in view of the need for the building or securing of permanent premises for a secondary school?

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): During the year 1950-1951, the provision for the district schools had been completed to the extent it was considered necessary at the time. Therefore, there was no expenditure for those district or primary schools. The temporary building for the secondary school was not occupied until the current year, that is 1 July 1952. No expenditure was incurred on that until this year.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): Then I presume that there will be an expenditure for capital works and services in the department of education during the current year.

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): Yes, that will be so; there certainly will be some expenditure.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I have one last question. Page 35 of the report, Appendix IV on public finance, paragraph (e) shows the expenditures out of the Nauru Royalty Trust Fund for education. In connexion with that, I wonder what conclusion was reached with regard to the recommendations made by the Trusteeship Council at its fifth session, if I remember correctly, suggesting that expenditures for native education should not be taken out of the Nauru Royalty Trust Fund, suggesting that that trust fund should be kept sacrosanct for other purposes and that the expenditures for education should be met out of the current budget. I take it that the special representative is familiar with that recommendation. What was the conclusion reached by the Australian Government with regard to that recommendation?

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): No definite conclusion has yet been reached. It is largely a question of accounting and financial recording. If action were taken along the lines indicated, it would probably result in a lesser amount of royalties being paid to the Nauruan Trust Fund and a greater amount being paid to the Administration. When one notes the provision that funds for all purposes on Nauru come from the royalty, it is just a question of how that royalty is split up and which fund expenditure it should be debited against. If we said that all education can be paid from the general budget of Nauru, it would be ⁱⁿ order and all right, but it would then probably involve some readjustment of the amount of royalty in the division between the trust fund and the general revenue of the Administration.

Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq): The question of the Chinese labourers, their segregation and their type of life in general has always caused us some anxiety, but this is not the time for observation on this point. However, there is one seemingly illogical point in this connexion on which I am seeking some light. There are 1,411 Chinese workers on the island. On page 31 of the report they are listed without women and without children. However, on page 52 of the report, under education, listed under "Chinese", I find one child. My question is: Where did this child come from?

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): That child is Chinese.

Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq): But page 31 of the report states that in the Chinese community there are absolutely no women. Therefore, where did that child come from?

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): There is one child. That child is the child of the Chinese interpreter attached to the Administration. I believe his wife was present with him in Nauru at the end of the year.

Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq): Except for the question where is the woman, I take Mr. Halligan's word for it; there is nothing else to do.

Mr. S. S. LIU¹ (China): After all the questions that have already been asked, I have only one very minor question remaining. Page 23, paragraph 2 states: "The instructional staff of the Department at 30 June 1951 comprised a European Director of Education, three European teachers, together with a Nauruan staff of 26." Then at the bottom of the page I read "The Nauruan instructional staff was increased by two and now totals 27." Why in one case is it 26 and in the other 27?

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): I have a corrected table brought up to date which shows the number of the Nauruan staff as 28. The number of head teachers was 6 and is now down to 5 because one went to teach in the secondary schools. The number 27 would be correct.

Mr. PIGNON (France) (interpretation from French): Along with the representative of the United States, I too would like to see a figure in next year's report giving supplementary information regarding the secondary schools. I should like to ask the special representative whether the education given in the secondary schools is directed education, that is to say, is it meant to open certain fields for the students?

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): It is a general education. By that I mean that in Australian methods there are a certain number of subjects that make up the general education. In a secondary school there are certain subjects that may be specialized in over and above that general education or they may be taken in place of certain others on the general list should it be decided that a student should be trained with a definite objective in view.

Mr. PIGNON (France) (interpretation from French): What is the level of education given at the Arubo Mission School? Does that mission school give education according to a curriculum that can be compared with the curriculum applied to the public schools?

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): Yes, the curriculum can be compared with the curriculum in the schools conducted by the Administration. The standard of education is equal to that in the Administration schools.

The PRESIDENT: Are there any further questions on educational advancement? As there are none, we have come to the end of the questioning period in connexion with this report. I should like to thank the special representative for his assistance to the Council in this matter.

We can now begin the general discussion on the annual report on Nauru.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. S. S. LIU (China): My delegation has given careful consideration to the current report on the administration of Nauru as well as the additional information supplied by the special representative in supplementation of the report. We wish to make the following brief observations.

In the field of political advancement, my delegation has noted with satisfaction the establishment of the Nauru Local Government Council in place of the Council of Chiefs. We regard this as a very significant step forward in the political development of the Territory. We have also noted the widened scope of the powers of the Council. We shall look forward to fuller information in future reports on the actual functioning of the Council. We shall be particularly pleased to see the free and unbridled development of the powers of the Council and the steady increase of the actual influence which will be wielded by the Council on the future of the administration.

My delegation has also been gratified to learn that in compliance with previous recommendations of the Trusteeship Council in regard to a more fully organized programme of training Nauruans for higher administrative positions, the Administering Authority has sent and is sending a number of deserving students overseas for training to qualify them for service in the Administration. Admittedly, however, the fact that only one top-ranking position is held by a Nauruan bespeaks the need for a progressive intensification of the training programme. We shall constantly be looking forward in the future annual reports to information evidencing the expansion of the training programme as well as the increase of indigenous personnel occupying the more important positions in the administrative service.

In the field of economic advancement, my delegation has noted with gratification the increase of royalties payable to the Administration on phosphate shipments from 6d. to 1s. per ton, and of royalty payable to or on behalf of the Nauruans from 1s.1d. to 1s.4d.

Secondly, in regard to the future of the Territory, we have noted repeatedly from the information furnished by the special representative and the Administering Authority that in about sixty-five or seventy years the phosphate deposits of the Territory will be exhausted. The Trusteeship Council, in several resolutions passed in previous sessions, has recommended that studies be made as to ^{the} future plans that should be adopted in regard to this situation.

The special representative has been good enough to inform the Council of the steps that have already been taken by the Administering Authority in this matter, but inasmuch as this is a very important question involving the very future of the Territory we cannot stress too strongly that increased attention will have to be paid to the studies which should be continued.

My delegation has also noted with satisfaction the step taken by the Administering Authority on the abolition of the capitation tax. As the Council is well aware, that is a question which has occupied its attention for many years, and we are certainly pleased to learn at long last of the abolition of this tax which has been found to be unsatisfactory.

In the field of social advancement my delegation has noted with satisfaction the completion of the housing programme and the steps that are being taken for the further construction of houses for the inhabitants of the Territory. In this connexion we have been pleased to learn that the total expenditure for the social welfare of the inhabitants increased during the year covered by the report.

We have also noted with satisfaction the progress that has been made in hospital development.

A reference has already been made to the review that is being undertaken by the Administering Authority of the so-called Chinese and Native Labour Ordinance and the Movement of Natives Ordinance. This matter has formed the subject of resolutions both of the General Assembly and of the Trusteeship Council. We note from the report that the review in question has not yet been concluded. While we realize that the door has not been closed we regret that the progress made in this respect has been very slow and that no encouraging news is forthcoming from the Administering Authority on the subject. The discriminations which are practised against the Chinese and indigenous inhabitants under these two ordinances have already been commented upon time and time again, and we earnestly request the Administering Authority to take serious steps to remedy the situation and to convey to the Council some information which will be more encouraging than that which has hitherto been brought to its attention.

In regard to the working hours and wages of the Chinese workers we have repeatedly requested the Administering Authority to take the necessary steps to improve the situation. While we have noted with satisfaction the increase of wages of the Chinese workers as from 1 July 1950, there has been no commensurate increase from 1 July of last year when an increase of the wages of the indigenous inhabitants was made. We hope that something will be done to remove the aspects

of discrimination vis-a-vis the Chinese workers in these two matters of wages and working hours. So far as concerns working hours the special representative himself has indicated this afternoon that the number of hours for Europeans, for the indigenous population and for the Chinese workers is very unequal.

Finally in this connexion there is the question of the families of the Chinese workers, a subject in regard to which members of the Council have evinced a keen interest. A number of representatives have commented on this question this very afternoon. We still hope that the special representative and the Administering Authority will take into consideration ^{both} the recommendations made by the Trusteeship Council as early as during its fifth session and the views of the Visiting Mission concerning the petition on this question submitted by the Chinese workers in Nauru in the spring of 1950. We hope that some satisfactory and, in the words of the Council's recommendation, "humane solution" will be found for this problem which has been confronting the Council for so many years.

It is not enough to say that the length of the contracts for the Chinese labourers has been reduced. That does not solve the problem because there are, according to the information furnished by the special representative himself, Chinese workers who have had their contracts renewed for longer periods, and it is the question of the families of these Chinese workers which the Visiting Mission stated should be given sympathetic consideration.

With regard to educational advancement in the Territory my delegation agrees completely with the representatives of the United States and of France that further information should be submitted to the Council concerning secondary education. In fact, that was one of the questions which I had in mind to put to the special representative. We would recall that one of the previous recommendations of the Council was that the Administering Authority should submit fuller information on secondary education. We were disappointed to find that the information on this subject contained in the current report was so very scanty. In fact, that is a remark which is applicable also to other parts of the report on Nauru and also, perhaps, to parts of the report on New Guinea. There are certain questions upon which the Council asked for full information, but the Administering Authority has been unable to furnish that information in the report in the most complete form possible which would have helped the Council much more in its examination of the document.

Secondly on this topic of educational advancement I would also make another plea that increased attention should be paid to the question of teacher training. We all remember the statement made by the special representative during the examination of the previous report to the effect that the quality of the teachers was not as satisfactory as one would like it to be. We hope, therefore, that increased attention will be paid to the question and that more qualified teachers will emerge from a long-term programme of regular teacher training, which is also emphasized in the observations of UNESCO contained in document T/962.

In conclusion I wish to express to the special representative the gratitude of my delegation for the information which he has placed at its disposal.

Mr. SALAZAR (Dominican Republic) (interpretation from Spanish): In connexion with the annual report on Nauru, the study of which the Trusteeship Council has just completed, my delegation feels it necessary to make remarks very similar to those which it made when we were discussing the report on New Guinea. We find that the Administering Authority is endeavouring to help the indigenous people towards educational, social, economic and political progress, and that it is, therefore, basing its conduct on the Charter and on the Trusteeship Agreement. As far as we are concerned, therefore, the general policy applied in the administration of Nauru meets the very high principles contained in Article 73 of the Charter.

In studying this annual report my delegation has paid great attention to the extensive and outstanding material limitations of the Trust Territory itself. We are following closely the present and future fate of this tiny island with a total surface of 5,263 acres and a total population of 3,434, of whom only 1,618 are Nauruans and, of them, only 473 males over 16 years of age.

These facts make it very obvious to us and, I think, to everyone that, in its consideration of this report, the Trusteeship Council must never lose sight of the unique character of the island of Nauru. Conditions there are exceptional and very different from those which obtain anywhere else. Then, in addition to these characteristics, there is the great mineral wealth of the Territory consisting of about 3,514 acres of phosphate land which assures about one million tons of phosphates a year with a value of over £1,000,000. My delegation therefore considers, as it has tried to show in the course of the questioning period, that the Council's interest must be focussed on the exploitation of phosphates in this Island.

My delegation attaches much importance to the possibility of the gradual exhausting of the phosphate fields and of diversification of the industry on the island in order to avoid any difficulty resulting from this situation in the future. The advisability of wider and more direct participation by the Nauruans in the benefits of the exploitation of the phosphate fields has been stressed by my delegation as we feel that the future of the island depends largely on this condition. Unless there is real co-ordination in the economic production, and unless the Administering Authority gives proper consideration to the personal needs of the population, then the future of Nauru as an autonomous State will remain but a utopian ideal.

After a review of the activities of the Administering Authority as shown in the report, my delegation has reached the following conclusion. Future reports presented to the Council for review should contain a detailed account of the programme which the Administering Authority intends to put into effect for the purpose of ensuring the political, economic, social and educational progress of the people of Nauru. The Council will then be able to know to what extent the Administering Authority is considering these great economic problems in connexion with the future of Nauru and its plans for their possible solution in accordance with the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement. From such information the Council would be enabled to understand the reasons for the conditions in the Territory and the distribution and utilization of the revenues. I think this was made clear by the questions which were asked at this morning's meeting regarding the financial situation and systems in Nauru.

In this general statement I have endeavoured to emphasize what appears to me to be the most important considerations in connexion with the administration of Nauru. I have stated, and I repeat, that I hope the Territory of Nauru will attain its autonomy as soon as possible.

Now I have only to congratulate the Government of Australia for the progress it has achieved in the Trust Territory of Nauru which has been for the benefit of the inhabitants. At the same time I wish to thank Mr. Halligan for the information he has given to the Council in addition to that provided in the report.

Mr. EQUIZABAL (El Salvador) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation has listened with great interest to the discussion of the report presented to the Council by the Administering Authority on the Trust Territory of Nauru. We have also followed carefully the answers given by the special representative to the various questions asked by the members of the Council and the supplementary information which he was kind enough to give. My delegation is pleased to note that, generally speaking, the situation in the Territory is satisfactory, taking into account the very difficult circumstances which have resulted from the devastation wrought by the war. Because of those circumstances, the efforts of the Administering Authority had to be oriented towards the rehabilitation of the island, and for that reason we must commend the Administering Authority for the work which it has done. This situation is made clear in the report before the Council. The material reconstruction and rehabilitation is almost complete, and in the fields of political, economic, social and educational advancement the Administering Authority has gradually overcome the greatest of its difficulties. We therefore wish to congratulate the Government of Australia and the Administrators of the Territory. We trust that the Administering Authority will continue its efforts to the end that the people of Nauru will benefit by the adoption of a more civilized life.

We also wish to commend the Administering Authority's attitude regarding the possible exhaustion of the phosphate fields and the fact that it is taking into account the future of the Territory in this regard.

I wish to thank Mr. Halligan, the special representative, for the manner in which he has replied to questions that were often difficult and complicated.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I have often thought that it must seem rather strange to persons not wholly familiar with the work of the Trusteeship Council to find so much attention devoted by the Council to the Trust Territory of Nauru, with its small area, its small population, and its unique characteristics. Nevertheless, it seems clear to me -- and I know it is the sense of the Council -- that this Territory, no less than others covering a larger area and with a greater population, requires the careful and conscientious discharge by the Trusteeship Council of its responsibilities as set forth in the Trusteeship chapters of the Charter. My delegation, therefore, wishes to make

a few comments on the situation in Nauru as reflected in the annual report under review and in the additional information furnished by the special representative.

In the political field a noteworthy step taken during the current year has been the reconstitution of the Council of Chiefs. The text of the relevant ordinance -- the Nauru Government Council Ordinance No.2 of 1951 -- thanks to the representative of Australia, has just been distributed to the Council this morning, and although representatives have not yet had time to make a detailed study of the document, nevertheless it is clear that it represents a very distinct advance. It is clear that the Council of Chiefs has been granted certain limited executive and budgetary powers and we hope that in the next annual report of the Administering Authority full information will be included with regard to the activities of this body, and fairly detailed information. My delegation feels very sure that the Administering Authority will wish to keep constantly under review the question of the development and extension from time to time, as may prove wise, of the powers of that council.

The economy of Nauru is geared almost entirely to the mining and export of phosphate. Accordingly, my delegation was interested in the question put to the special representative by the representative of Thailand, and by others, as to the progress of the Administration in studying the important matter of the future of the indigenous population of Nauru when the phosphate deposits are exhausted. I believe that the Administering Authority estimates that that will be in about seventy years. That is a matter which has occupied the attention of the Trusteeship Council on previous occasions. The special representative replied to the representative of Thailand to the effect that no definite results could be reported at the present time. He said also that two possibilities are envisaged; first, the transfer of the population from Nauru to some other island and, secondly, if anything can be done to redeem the soil after the phosphate fields have been exhausted, to make arrangements for the population to remain on the island. We feel that these studies should be pursued actively by the Administration. Although seventy years may be viewed as a long period of time, it is not too early to begin definitive planning. For example, the fundamental decision as to whether or not the population is to remain on Nauru might well affect immediately the methods employed in the mining of phosphate and the measures taken to backfill the mined areas.

In connexion with the general problem of the long-range future of the Territory and its inhabitants my delegation hopes that the Administration will continue vigorously to press forward with efforts to introduce such diversification into the economy as may be possible. We realize the difficulty of this; nevertheless, we are not convinced of its impossibility. References have been made, for example, to the possible introduction of certain species of cocoanut and pineapple plants and the possible development of kapok and coir fibre as industries.

My delegation has noted that the expenditures of the Administration for the year under review have increased substantially; that is, from £68,000 during the year 1948-1949 to £130,000 during the year under review. While the report gives some indication of the way in which this increase has been expended -- for example, in "capital construction" -- my delegation would hope that considerably more detailed information will be given in future reports as to the precise purpose for which funds are utilized under the various headings now given in the statistical appendix. We feel that the Council can profit considerably from a more careful explanation of many of these items as they appear in the report.

In the field of public health the principal developments during the year, according to the report, comprised the construction of a baby clinic and various extensions to the existing hospital facilities, as well as to the leper station. These are creditable developments which the Council should note. As was brought out at this morning's meeting, the subject of leprosy is one which my delegation feels should be intensively followed. It seems that the number of seventy-one lepers is excessive in a population of only some 1,600 Nauruans, and whether, under modern systems of medical care and scientific research, this number of seventy-one can be materially reduced is a question which this Council will look at with great interest in the future efforts of the Administering Authority to combat and reduce this dread disease.

On the question of housing, my delegation felt gratification at what the special representative told us this morning: 250 new houses built, and more important, perhaps, 244 of those houses occupied; in other words, almost immediate occupancy. The overcoming of the obstacle of furnishing, I am sure, gratifies us all. We hope that in the future handling of the Copra Fund, which is being devoted toward helping to pay for the necessary furnishings in the developments of the Nauruan Co-operative Society which is seeking to manufacture the necessary furniture, next year the story told by the special representative will be one of all success.

In the field of education, I note that expenditures have increased over the preceding year by some £1,400. That is gratifying. The fact that the estimates for 1951-1952 call for an increase above £5,900 to £11,500, is something which I am sure the Council will take particular note of. It is another indication of the efforts of the Government of the Administering Authority to work relentlessly on this difficult problem of education. Salaries for Nauruan teachers have been increased. A new infant-school teacher for Nauru was added to the staff and, moreover, through the South Pacific Commission, each village school has attained a library of 100 books. Secondary education has been resumed in the Territory for the first time since the war, and we hope that in the report for next year we will find a much fuller account of what is being planned and what is being achieved in the way of secondary education in Nauru.

We note that the new school has been opened in temporary premises with an enrollment of thirty students. We note that eighteen other students are studying abroad, fourteen in Australia and four in Fiji. We were gratified to hear the reply of the special representative this afternoon that a fairly substantial proportion of those students are attacking this problem of teacher training and are hoping to become teachers in Nauru.

The Visiting Mission in 1950 noted that educational development in Nauru was still inferior to that existing before the war. But my delegation, noting the advances which have been made and which are being made in the current year, hopes that next year's report will show that educational advances and educational facilities, particularly in the fields of secondary education and teacher training, are being pushed forward vigorously. The opportunities which are now being given for study abroad will certainly redound to the great advantage of the Trust Territory in the future. The

effect of this investment of funds will be cumulative as additional students are sent abroad while those studying abroad return to the island of Nauru; we are sure that the report will show gratifying progress.

In conclusion, there are two related matters on which my delegation would like briefly to comment with respect to this current report on the Trust Territory of Nauru. The first of these relates to the general scope and content of the report. My delegation, and I am sure other members of the Council will be in agreement, is aware of the fact that Nauru is the smallest of the Trust Territories; its total population is only 3,400 people; its total area is only slightly more than eight square miles. Because of these factors alone the Territory does not suffer from many of the problems which affect larger and more populated territories. Furthermore, the developments during a given period in any particular field are likely to require less elaborate and detailed explanations than is the case in more complex territories. Nevertheless, there are continuing very real problems in the Trust Territory of Nauru. The Trusteeship Council and the Visiting Mission have taken, and will continue to take, a very active interest in the way those problems are met.

My own delegation feels that, notwithstanding the considerations I have just outlined, it would be useful for the Administering Authority, in the future annual reports on the Territory, to furnish more complete and detailed information on the developments during the period reviewed than is contained in the present report, particularly on those important problems in the Territory in which the Council has exhibited an interest.

The second point which my delegation would like to make is one which we have referred to in connexion with other annual reports during this session. I refer to the practice of providing complete and full information in section K of the report on the consideration given to recommendations and conclusions of the Trusteeship Council. We have that now on pages 25 and 26 of the present report. My delegation feels that this is a very important aspect of the general question of providing the Trusteeship Council, with full and complete information on the Trust Territories without which the Council would be unable to perform the functions assigned to it under the Charter. We would express the hope that this practice will be continued and that the report will be expanded in its comments under section K.

Finally, my delegation joins with the others in expressing our appreciation to the special representative for the way he has discharged a very difficult and rather tiring job. We appreciate the way he has put himself out to answer the many questions asked of him by the members of this Council.

Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq): We have studied very carefully, and in an encouraging manner -- certainly more encouraging than yesterday -- the annual report on Nauru. We find that creditable progress has been made this year and we are glad to applaud the Administering Authority for it.

We applaud especially the decision to reorganize and extend the powers of the Council of Chiefs. The law is still to be enacted but the decision in itself is quite a mark of progress and we believe the Administering Authority can be commended in that respect. We can only impress on the Administering Authority the desirability of proceeding with this plan as expeditiously as possible. No doubt the Council will watch with interest the evolution of this idea.

We find also that Nauruans are creeping, so to speak, into positions of public office and responsibility. This is extremely encouraging. It has always been a good thing, not only to get the population of a Territory to take part in the responsibilities of its own government, but also to encourage it to train itself and to be trained in self-government for future purposes.

No doubt the economy of the island is a point to be studied at close range. To begin with, the abolition of the capitation tax is a noteworthy sign of progress. It is something for which the Trusteeship Council has been clamouring for some time. We are glad to note that the Administering Authority has taken the Council's recommendation seriously and has abolished this tax. We believe here again that a commendation for this action is quite in order.

Phosphate is the soul and the spirit of the economy of the island. This has engaged the attention of the Trusteeship Council in the past in the sense that it is too much the soul and the spirit of the island. We would have liked to see a more diversified economy. All expert opinion indicates ^{that} the phosphate resources are not eternal; they are to be exhausted within a certain time, a matter of perhaps fifty years or so. If that happens,

and it is bound to happen one day, as all mineral resources are bound to come to an end -- even great oil reserves, as we know -- then the island will be left stranded completely without an economy. I am sure the Administering Authority has been engaged with some anxiety, as have we, in approaching this problem. We should like to impress upon the Administering Authority the desirability of finding a solution for it. We attach great importance to this question, because when this resource is exhausted the people of the island, small in number as they are, will certainly be left almost completely without an economy. We would like the Trusteeship Council to make a recommendation that the Administering Authority should proceed with a plan for diversifying the economy and for putting the island, as we have said in the past, on a more stable economic basis.

The benefits accruing to the island and the inhabitants from phosphate are not bad; they could be better. We always follow the principle that basically the resources, and the mineral resources especially, of a Territory belong primarily to the Territory. There is no harm in other people taking part of it for development; this has been acknowledged in many places, but there must be a sense of fair play. We would like to see a little more benefit accruing to the island inhabitants from phosphate.

In the social field the first and foremost matter which has given us some anxiety is the question of the Chinese workers. I would not like, in this, what I consider to be a somewhat happy atmosphere, to go into matters of social segregation or social discrimination. But in all friendliness, I must say that the situation in this respect does smell of something like that. There is an aura of social segregation. There is a bit of social discrimination in the matter.

Taking the question from a different angle, we find there are 1,411 Chinese workers. There are absolutely no women among them; their families are not with them. This is certainly a very serious social problem. It is wrong to have such a big colony of 1,400 men without their families. Such a thing has always been wrong. One has only to look at prisoner of war camps to see what bad situations can arise. This sort of situation leads to crime, and I am sure the Administering Authority would not like to have that. In this regard, the Administering Authority is having

recourse, in our opinion, to a somewhat violent method; that is, it is trying to keep those people from crime and violence by methods of curfew, for example. The imposition of a curfew is a violent method. It might work for a time, but I do not think it will work forever. It will restrain some people but it may not restrain everybody.

On the other hand, we do not like the idea of a curfew in itself. It is no doubt fettering the liberty of movement of people. To as great an extent as possible, unless there is a gross necessity or a great desirability in terms of security and public order, there should be the utmost liberty for people to move about peacefully in the Territory and not be fettered in their freedom.

We have always agreed, and still do, with the conclusion of the Visiting Mission that the Administering Authority should be asked to give sympathetic consideration to the problem of reuniting the Chinese workers with their families. I can only repeat that this problem merits the utmost attention of the Administering Authority, and I earnestly hope that the Council will see its way clear to making a recommendation to that effect.

We note with great satisfaction that the minimum wage has increased by £27 per annum as from 1 July 1950. That is a very good thing and certainly a commendable thing.

In the field of public health, the leper station has received attention from the authorities.

In housing, it is most thrilling to note that 250 houses were built and that almost all of them -- to be exact, 244 -- have been occupied. That shows not only the need for these houses, but also the desire and the willingness of the population to improve its conditions by improving its standard of living.

In education, one must note that this is a very small island and one cannot expect miracles. We notice that fair progress has been made. There is an increase in the expenditure on education. There is a very thrilling aspect of the progress in education, namely, the use of the visual medium of education, which I believe always works very well in backward societies. I am glad that the Administering Authority is alive to this aspect of the problem and is developing the programme, I feel sure, to the best of its capabilities.

One further aspect of the educational programme should receive real commendation from the Council. There are three girls training overseas in secondary schools in Australia. I believe that there are eighteen students studying abroad, and three of them are girls. This is a very satisfying result. Especially where girls are concerned, as I have had occasion to say several times in the Council, we attach the utmost importance to the progress and education of women, since these girls are going to be the wives and the mothers of the future. The more girls that are educated, inside and outside the Territory, the better. I believe the Council should commend the Administering Authority

especially for the sending of those three girls to Australia.

I should like to stress the question of teacher-training. I think that is a point which should receive a little more attention. It has always been a very important aspect of education, and we still think there could be improvement in that respect.

In conclusion, I can only turn to my distinguished colleague, Mr. Forsyth, and say that there is a great difference between yesterday and today. I am not saying that as a favour; I am only speaking the truth. I hope the Administering Authority will do as well in New Guinea as it is doing in Nauru. It is doing pretty well in Nauru, and I believe it merits the commendation of the Council for the progress made in Nauru this year. I am the first to applaud this progress.

I should also like to thank Mr. Halligan for his patience and for his very able answers to the very many questions put to him on this subject.

The PRESIDENT: I think the Council might now take a short recess. It would be a great help in planning tomorrow's work if we could conclude the debate on Nauru this afternoon. I should be most grateful if those delegations which still propose to speak would do so today, so that we might conclude the discussion -- with the exception, of course, of the reply of the Administering Authority.

Mr. FORSYTH (Australia): As regards replies by Mr. Halligan and myself, we think that, if nothing unforeseen were to occur, we also could finish today with what we have to say.

The PRESIDENT: That would make the arrangements for tomorrow still easier for us.

The meeting was suspended at 4.20 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

Mr. PIGNON (France) (interpretation from French): My observations will be brief inasmuch as the essence of what I wanted to say has already been mentioned in the debate. My delegation cannot but express its congratulations to the Administering Authority for the progress registered in connexion with the consideration of the annual report, progress which embraces all the fields considered. In fact, this situation would appear almost too good to this delegation and of a nature to justify -- not for the immediate present but for the future -- certain apprehensions.

The need for an administration which would undoubtedly maintain the size of a small municipality is extremely limited, of course, and the proportion of Nauruans employed in the public service, within the real meaning of the word -- I am not counting those employed by the Phosphate Company-- is already very large. We are told that 250 employees in the Administration, out of 464 males, are between 16 and 60 years of age.

This is why the question of reserve opportunity being available, in their own country or abroad, to the students of secondary schools, appeared to me to be a very important question. This problem, which is in fact the question of ascertaining whether these young intellectuals will or will not be reduced to unemployment on their own land, is a question which will arise much before the date which has been set as seeming to indicate the end of the phosphate resources in Nauru.

I would like to say that we should not try to make out of each Nauruan a sort of creature of luxury who has been too tenderly and too nicely brought up and who is expecting conditions which he will not meet in his own native country. Yet, the explanations furnished by the special representative to questions put by my colleagues, have shown that the Administering Authority is fully conscious of this problem and is already concerned with diversifying the aptitudes of the Nauruans, in order to rehabilitate them with activities other than those which have been open to them to date. As a matter of fact, the problem is of a rather limited scope and, for the present at least, it does

not seem to present any real urgency, nor does it appear in a very acute form. We are fully confident of the Administering Authority, and of the methodical and impartial spirit of evolution which is necessary.

I should also like to thank the special representative for the excellent contribution he has given to the work of the Trusteeship Council.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): It is of course a banality to say that all of the life of Nauru depends upon the phosphates. If there were no phosphates there would be no European population, and there would be no Chinese population and there would be no problem in Nauru. But there would also be no resources and the island of Nauru would be a small island far away in the Pacific; there would be no question of establishing the public or medical services which exist in Nauru, such as the Department of Health, which was organized as a result of the tremendous contributions brought into the budget by the phosphate industry.

The essential problem existing at present in the country is found in the relations between the Administration and the Phosphate Company. It is necessary for the time being, at least, subject to adjustments which might have to be made some time in the future, that the phosphate industry contributes, in a proportion which appears to us reasonable, to the public budget as well as to the private budget of the Nauruans.

As regards the present, the most acute problem, in my view, is to be found in the large Chinese population. These Chinese workers are immigrants. The first rights of the land, of course, belong to the native Nauruans. It is understandable that the Nauruans fear that they will be submerged by populations which have immigrated. It is natural, therefore, for the Administering Authority to take every precautionary step against foreign populations establishing themselves permanently in Nauru. However, the fact that Chinese workers must come without their families, even if they stay for the maximum time of one year, appears to us to be a solution which cannot be fully accepted without additional study. Experience elsewhere has shown that a working population living a normal family life has a higher output than that which can be produced by people who are separated from their families and who are living an unnatural and unhealthy type of existence.

As regards the future, we should of course be concerned with the situation that will arise in Nauru when the phosphate resources become exhausted which will apparently be some seventy years from now. However, as regards the anxiety of those who are concerned with this problem and who say that it has not as yet been resolved, I must admit that for my part, were the Australian Government to submit to us a seventy year plan setting forth what the status of Nauruans would be in seventy years, I would be somewhat sceptical. Even with plans of five years or ten years, at the end of the period for the implementation of the plan one finds that the original plan has been considerably altered. Were Australia to tell us today that the problem has been resolved concerning what was to be done with the Nauruans in seventy years, I would be willing to wager -- I would not be here to collect the benefits of the wager, but I am ready to wager -- that the end result would be far removed from what would be proposed today.

As regards the events of the past year, other representatives have already pointed out the progress that has been made in the political field, such as the establishment of the Nauru Local Government Council, and in the educational field by the reopening of the secondary school. The number of students in the secondary schools - thirty in Nauru, and eighteen abroad -- compares favourably with the number of children in secondary schools in communities of the same size elsewhere in the world.

The progress which has been made, which is due to the very privileged position of Nauru because of the existence of phosphate in Nauru, certainly calls for an expression of satisfaction on the part of the Trusteeship Council. As the representative of France just stated, my delegation considers that we can fully trust the Australian Government to pursue this progress in Nauru in every possible field.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)

(interpretation from Russian): Article 76 of the Charter of the United Nations, which deals with the basic objectives of the Trusteeship System, states, as one of the basic objectives of this system, ^{the following:} "to promote the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territories, and their progressive development towards self-government or independence".

The analysis submitted to us by the Administering Authority, as well as the information furnished by the special representative, leads us to the inevitable conclusion that the Administering Authority has not fulfilled the basic objective of the provisions of the Charter as regards the Trusteeship System with respect to the Trust Territory of Nauru.

The comparison of the report of the Administering Authority presented this year with the reports presented in past years shows that the Administering Authority has not adopted the necessary measures to promote the political, economic and social advancement of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory. The indigenous population of the Trust Territory still does not participate actively in the administration of their country. There are no legislative, executive or judicial organs in which the indigenous population can participate. As the report shows, complete rights in the field of legislation and jurisprudence are in the hands of an administrator appointed

by the Government of Australia, in its capacity of Administering Authority.

We see from Annex II of the report that the basic posts in the administration of Nauru are filled by Europeans, whereas the indigenous population undertake purely technical or secondary duties. The Visiting Mission has indicated that the key posts, with the exception of one, have been assumed by Europeans. The one exception is the appointment of the Head Chief as Native Affairs Officer. The Europeans, when they need help, address themselves to the chiefs. Thus, there are fourteen areas that are headed by chiefs. In charge of all these chiefs is the Head Chief, and all of them are responsible for order in their respective areas and all of them are subordinate to the Administrator.

The representative of the Administering Authority attempts to show the recent reorganization of the Council of Chiefs as an important step in the direction of the independence of the Samoan people. However, there are in fact no changes at all that have taken place. The only thing that has changed is the name. Before it was called the Council of Chiefs and now it is called the Nauru Local Government Council. This Council certainly does not have full powers; it is merely a consultative organ, as it was in the past.

On page 10 of its report the Visiting Mission characterized this new Council in the following terms:

"The Mission... gathered the impression that in matters of Island-wide concern its powers would be purely advisory and would not differ greatly from those of the present Council of Chiefs. It was informed by the Administrator that the Council would definitely not have power to legislate for the whole population of the Island."

All this is fully confirmed when we consider the information which has been submitted to us now by the special representative and the Administering Authority. In other words, the body thus created is merely a consultative body and has no real powers for the conducting of affairs in the Trust Territory. For more than thirty years the Administering Authority has confined itself to general statements concerning the promotion of the use of the indigenous population in the government of its country, but has not adopted any practical measures to give effect to such general statements.

We see from the petition of the Council of Chiefs of Nauru that all the plans and projects of the Administering Authority in this field amount only to empty promises which are completely valueless in fact. In its report on Nauru to the League of Nations for 1925 the Australian Government wrote:

"If the present rate of progress be maintained -- and there is reason to believe that it will be -- there seems to be every probability that in ^{of} course/time Nauruans will be fully qualified to fill nearly the whole of the professional and other appointments on the Island".

Since that time twenty-five years have elapsed. What additional results have been registered in the Territory? From the petition to which I referred just now we learn that:

"After an elapse of 25 years, only one Nauruan is now holding a key position in the Administration.",

and that:

"... it was to this Council 25 years ago that plans, schemes and proposals... for attaining an educational standard that would make the Nauruans eligible for appointment to key positions, were unfolded. Hopes and expectations were in vain, as the present state of affairs shows, after a period of 25 years of preparation."

That quotation, as I have said, is from the petition from the Council of Chiefs of Nauru to which I referred earlier, and it is evidence of the fact that the

Administering Authority is not fulfilling the tasks incumbent upon it under the Charter of the United Nations with regard to the development of the Trust Territory and its orientation towards independence or self-government. The Trusteeship Council must recommend to the Administering Authority that it should in fact enact the necessary legislation to ensure the participation of the indigenous population in the legislative, executive and judiciary organs of the Territory. In addition, the Council must recommend the adoption of measures to ensure the transition from the tribal system to the system of self-government based on democratic premises.

In this connexion I should like to point out that the proposal of the Soviet Union calling for the establishment of self-government based on democratic principles is one whose implementation would help to give effect to the provisions of the Charter in this particular Trust Territory. The proposal has nothing at all in common with the caricature which some members of the Council have attempted to sketch as if it had as its object the creation of a kind of revolution in the Territory or a proletarianization of the indigenous population and various other rather nonsensical aims which have been ascribed to the USSR proposal. In fact the proposal pursues no particular objective except to ensure that conditions shall be created in the Territory which will resemble to some extent the conditions existing in Australia itself with respect to the Australian population. I am speaking, of course, of the white population of Australia.

I found it necessary to make this statement in order that the representative of Australia should not lead his listeners astray with respect to proposals moved by the delegation of the Soviet Union. There is no revolution or proletarianization involved here. What we are proposing is to try to have, at least to some minimum extent, something which we have in Australia with respect to the white population. Even if there were something similar to what exists in Canberra, and not in Sydney, that would at any rate be a step forward. As the Council knows, the population of Canberra has no right to elect members of parliament with a decisive vote. Its members have a consultative vote only. At least, that used to be the situation: it may have been changed now, but I do not know.

I come now to the economic picture. The economic life of Nauru is completely subjected to the British Phosphate Commission, which is exploiting Nauru to the full and plays a dominant part not only in the economic sphere but even in other spheres. The indigenous population of Nauru has no voice in the

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conduct of the affairs of this Commission. The Visiting Mission pointed this out on page 9 of its report, and the situation has not changed since. The Mission said:

"The British Phosphate Commissioners occupy so commanding a position in the economy of the Island that their administrative independence is virtually complete, and the position of the Administrator in his relations with them appeared to the Mission to be a difficult one."

I do not wish to dwell on this question at the present time because it was clarified fully during a previous session of the Trusteeship Council. The Governments of Australia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand have adopted methods of exploitation in Nauru, utilizing the Island's natural resources in the most intensive manner and deriving therefrom a tremendous profit. During the year under review, for example, a considerable amount of phosphate was taken out, and I wish to demonstrate one particular aspect of this exploitation and violation of the interests of the indigenous population, which is clearly shown if we study the price paid for one ton of phosphate in the Trust Territory as compared with the price paid for the same quantity in other places. The price deemed to be adequate for a ton of phosphate in the Trust Territory is always \$2 lower at least than the price obtaining in other areas of the world. Thus the Administering Authority deprives the indigenous population of two million American dollars each year for phosphate.

Furthermore -- and I wish to draw the attention of the Council to this situation -- if we take into consideration the fact that the quality of the phosphate of Nauru is twice as good as that for which I have just quoted the price in other parts of the world, it is to be seen that in effect four million dollars is taken away yearly from the indigenous population by means of the establishment of low prices through a monopoly. If the representative of Australia or the special representative should say that this is not so I am able to illustrate the situation with further data.

In spite of all this we have heard congratulations extended to the Administering Authority, and it has been implied that everything is just perfect in the Trust Territory. Some representatives have even uncovered progress in Nauru. Show me this progress. Where is it to be found? We learn that as the result of the exploitation of the phosphate resources at the present rate only a few decades remain during which phosphate may still be found in the Island.

The Administering Authority does not adopt measures to ensure a proper royalty payment or to help the indigenous population to secure its present or its future. As is to be seen from the petition of the Council of Chiefs,

"The most oppressing question that is confronting every thinking Nauruan is 'what am I going to do, after they have taken all the phosphate away?'". This certainly is a question which commends itself to our attention and which indicates clearly that the Nauruan is far from being sure of his future. How can he be sure of his future when such a policy is practised in his country?

The Administering Authority also pursues a policy of alienation of land from the indigenous population. This fact emerges clearly from petitions which have been addressed to the Council by the populations of Aiwo, Yarren and other districts. In this connexion my delegation considers that the Trusteeship Council must recommend the return of land which has already been alienated, and that it must not permit any further alienation.

The information available to the Trusteeship Council also indicates that the Administering Authority is carrying out a policy of crude discrimination and segregation in Nauru. In its report the Visiting Mission said, on page 21:

"The Mission found that the three races on the Island live in conditions of fairly complete segregation. The various communities do work together on the job, but generally in different capacities and under widely different terms of employment. Otherwise, there is little, if any, social contact.

"This segregation is to some extent legally enforceable under the terms of the Movement of Natives Ordinance, which also applies to Chinese.

Chinese must at all times be in possession of a pass signed by the Labour Inspector when leaving their small location, and Nauruans must have a pass, signed by the Chief, if they wish to be absent from the district in which they live after 10 p.m. at night. The Trusteeship Council took exception to the terms of this ordinance at its fifth session, but so far no action to amend or repeal it has been taken..."

It is known that for violations of this Ordinance, sixty-four indigenous persons have been convicted. This is shown on page 34 of the report.

Racial discrimination in the Territory is indicated by the fact that the indigenous inhabitants doing the same work as Europeans receive less pay. This shows the anti-democratic policy being carried out by the Administering Authority towards the indigenous inhabitants and the Chinese workers, and, therefore, the Council should recommend that the Administering Authority should put a stop to racial discrimination in the Territory. The indigenous inhabitants receive a miserly salary. Even a worker for the Administration, receiving in addition certain rations, is paid very little. The average pay for a man with a family of four is only 1s.7d. per day. The purchasing power of such a small amount can be judged by the retail prices on certain commodities. Page 46 of the report states that a pound of rice costs 8d.; a pound of meat, 2s.8d.; a pound of tomatoes, 2s.6d., etc.

The conditions under which the Nauruan population live are actually criminal, according to the report under review. Four hundred and fifty-four inhabitants, more than 13 per cent of the population, were convicted and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment and fines. This is shown on pages 32 and 33 of the report.

The Administering Authority does not give sufficient thought or care to the education of the indigenous population. This is shown by the fact that the expenditure for education in 1950-1951 was three times less than was spent in the police and judiciary field -- see page 15 of the report. I have already asked the special representative to explain why that is the case but he has not been able to give a satisfactory reply. What conclusion can we draw from this? The conclusion is quite clear, namely, that the concern of the Administering Authority for education is considerably lacking. We note that the progress of education is very slow. This opinion is based on the fact that twenty-five years of compulsory education should be sufficient to attain a satisfactory level of education in a territory such as Nauru, and yet no progress has been shown. The Administering Authority has not achieved satisfactory results in the field of education. In addition, the Visiting Mission has pointed out that the opportunities for education in Nauru at the present time are fewer than before the war; I repeat, fewer than before the war.

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And yet, some representatives have congratulated the Administering Authority. What for? It is enough to read the facts in order to see that there is absolutely no reason to congratulate the Administering Authority; rather, it should be blamed for not fulfilling its obligations under the Charter. But I leave it to the representatives on the Council who prefer to see everything with a silver lining. That silver lining does not always help.

Discrimination is also practised in the field of education. The report shows that the Administering Authority's expenditure for one European student is four times greater than that for one Nauruan student. The Trusteeship Council should recommend that the Administering Authority should increase its allocation for education and other cultural needs, as well as for health.

These are the comments of the Soviet Union delegation on the report of the administration of the Territory of Nauru for 1950-1951.

Mr. HALLIGAN (Special representative): I feel that the representatives on the Council now have a proper picture of the conditions in Nauru, and there is nothing that I can add to the statements in the report and those which have been given to the Council that would assist the Council further in its consideration of the report. I only wish to thank you, Mr. President, and the representatives for the courtesy which has been shown to me during the period in which I have acted as special representative in the examination of the report on Nauru.

Mr. FORSYTH (Australia): I do not wish to weary the Council, but there are a few observations which I hope to be able to make in the space of about ten minutes. I wish to begin by thanking the Council for the serious examination of the report and the constructive character of most of the observations and suggestions which have been made. I particularly appreciated the remarks of the representative of Iraq. Indeed, there has been a notably improved atmosphere in the examination of this report in comparison with that which prevailed during the examination of the report on New Guinea. I think the reasons for that include the higher state of economic development of Nauru. There is there a very rich resource available in a concentrated area. Secondly, there is the accessibility of the people. It is a small group of people in a small, one might even say a miniature, area. Thirdly, there is the character of the people.

the Polynesians, on the whole, are much more advanced than the Melynesian peoples. They have a very interesting complex and a highly developed cultural background, and they also have a history.

However, the generally favourable comment on Nauru, by which we are of course most gratified, is, I think, the recognition of the genuineness of Australia's intentions in the Trust Territories, or in the Territories for which it is the Trustee. More rapid progress has been possible in Nauru than in New Guinea, owing to the conditions, which are vastly -- almost entirely -- different from those in New Guinea. However, the difficulty of the conditions in New Guinea does not afford any reason to doubt the genuineness of the intentions of the Administering Authority in that Territory.

The representative of the Soviet Union has quoted what I believe was a mandate system document, to the effect that the Nauruans could in due course handle all their own affairs. "In due course", I think, is a significant phrase. The quotation, as I heard it, did not imply a very short period. With the war came the invasion and capture of the island by the Japanese, and complete disruption of the life of the community; and after the war we had to begin again. Many of the people had been taken away, and not all of them came back. They had had no education for years. The whole of life was disrupted. Since then, however, there has been a growing number of Nauruans in the Administration. One has achieved senior status already; others may follow. Also a system of elections for a local government council has been introduced.

The representative of the Soviet Union said he would be quite content if something along the Australian pattern were followed in political development in Nauru. I should like to point out that the Australian form of democratic self-government has a very long history -- not as long, certainly, as that of other countries represented at this table; nevertheless, by comparison with some of the more recently explored countries, a very long history. But the beginnings of that Australian development were very, very similar to what we are setting up now in New Guinea and Nauru. These Advisory and Legislative Councils, partly elective, partly nominated, are the very kind of thing we had in our own Australian colonies a hundred years ago; that is to say, at an early stage of development one finds a similar pattern.

Let me turn now to questions on the phosphate industry; and here I do not want to go into details, but merely to make one general observation. The questions might perhaps raise the matter of the extent to which the Council should enquire into the internal affairs of commercial undertakings in Trust Territories. Provided the Council is satisfied that the Administering Authority is making adequate provision for the well-being and advancement of the people and is obtaining satisfactory contributions from extractive non-indigenous industries, I think it might well be seriously considered whether the Council should enquire into the internal affairs of commercial undertakings. Too inquisitorial an attitude as to commercial and industrial concerns might well tend to have a discouraging effect on investment in Trust Territories, and without investment the pace of economic development would be adversely affected and the advancement of the people retarded. The Council's interest, it seems to me, is in the fulfilment of the agreement, the promotion of the political, economic, social and educational advancement of the people, and perhaps -- I throw out the thought -- it should be content to trust the discretion of the Administering Authority as to the raising of the financial means of achieving these objectives. The interest of the Council, it would seem to me, lies rather in fiscal policy and the adequacy of provision for achieving the purposes of trusteeship than in the details of the operations of proprietary concerns.

As regards the actual situation in Nauru, the report shows that the Administration and the services benefit substantially from the phosphate industry, and the Nauruan owners of the land benefit directly and, one might say, handsomely from the phosphate royalties. In addition, there is a trust fund which is being accumulated from year to year to take care of the economic future of the Nauruan people.

Let me pass now to questions of restrictions on Chinese labour. Perhaps some measures, as the confinement of Chinese labourers to a particular area, may be necessary for the protection of the way of life of the native population. These immigrant labourers are a very large number in relation to the Nauruan population. I think we must also remember that they are immigrant people. They are not permanent residents of the Territory. They are a special group. It is true the indigenous population is not the only concern of the Trusteeship Council and the Administering Authority. The Charter does not distinguish between indigenous and other inhabitants. Nevertheless the Agreement for Nauru does give the indigenous inhabitants special consideration in Article 5, paragraph 2 (a). This seems to me to be a question of balance, a question of reasonable treatment, having regard to the paramountcy of Nauruan interests. The observations of the Trusteeship Council on the matter will of course receive the earnest consideration of the Administering Authority.

I made some remarks on differential pay in connexion with New Guinea, and the main points of those remarks apply, I think, to Nauru also. At any rate the restrictions are not based on a policy of racial discrimination but on practical considerations in what we believe to be the interests of the Nauruan people.

There was some reference to leprosy, and an appeal was made, I think, for special attention to this problem. I can state that special attention has been given to it quite recently. There was a visit by a prominent authority on this disease, Dr. Austin, the Director of the Makogai Leper Settlement in the Fiji Islands, a very well known leper settlement. Dr. Austin, a well-known authority on this disease, has already given a report on the question of the treatment of leprosy in Nauru.

As regards the future economic life of the Nauruans, this matter, as the representative of Iraq assumed, has occupied the attention of the Administering Authority, and that was true before the establishment of the trusteeship system. The scientific aspects of this question are under investigation at the present time. If, however, a transfer were to become necessary in the long run to another island or islands, this would be no new thing for Polynesians. Not only a long way back, but also in recent times there has been the need for organized migration, the transfer of

Polynesian populations from islands in which their reproduction outran the rather meagre resources. There is quite a deal of experience available on such organized movements. In fact, such transfer of population might even have become necessary, as it did in other islands, had there been no phosphate works on Nauru at all. It is not only conceivable but very likely that the growth of population on Nauru would have forced the Nauruans to transfer, at any rate, a part of their population to some other island.

I suggest that it is a matter for consideration whether the present is the time to make the fundamental decision on this matter. Here I think I agree very much with what the representative of Belgium said. Studies and investigations of the means of diversifying production are being undertaken, and they may possibly, although the special representative is doubtful, reveal alternatives to emigration and settlement on another island.

My last observation concerns some of the comments on the form of the report and the content of the report. Some members have made requests for fuller information in future reports. I have had a few words with the special representative on this, and I shall consult him in detail as to the possibility of meeting the wishes of those members of the Council who have expressed the desire for fuller information in our annual reports.

Once again I should like to thank the President and the members of the Council.

Mr. S.S. LIU (China): I hope I will be permitted to say a word in regard to the paramountcy of the interests of the inhabitants of the Territory. I have not had time to look at the Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory of Nauru, but the following words appear in the Charter: "the interests of the inhabitants of these territories". These words appear in Chapter XI, which contains the declaration regarding non-self-governing territories. It appears there in two places without the word "indigenous". At the same time I should call the attention of the Council to the provision of Article 76 (d) which is designed to "ensure equal treatment in social, economic, and commercial matters for all Members of the United Nations and their nationals". To my mind, therefore, the construction which the representative of Australia placed on the recognition of the interests of the inhabitants of the Territory is restricted and perhaps not wide enough. It does not cover all the provisions of the Charter.

Mr. FORSYTH (Australia): I would not like to be misunderstood on this point. I agree that the Charter makes no distinction between indigencous and other inhabitants; it simply talks of inhabitants. But I pointed out that the Agreement does give the indigenous inhabitants special consideration, and I drew attention to Article 5 of the Agreement.

ELECTION OF DRAFTING COMMITTEE ON NAURU

The PRESIDENT: The Committee which I propose to be the drafting committee on Nauru consists of China, France, Thailand and the United States of America. In order to save time I shall put this to the vote immediately.

China was appointed to the committee by 10 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.

France was appointed to the committee by 10 votes, with 2 abstentions.

Thailand was appointed to the committee by 11 votes, with 1 abstention.

The United States of America was appointed to the committee by 10 voter with 2 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: The committee therefore consists of China, France, Thailand and the United States. I shall be grateful if that committee will get to work as soon as it can.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In view of the fact that there is no lawful representative of China in the Trusteeship Council, I have obviously voted against a representative who is not a representative of the Chinese people for membership in the drafting committee.

Mr. S.S. LIU (China): Mr. Soldatov's remarks are so far out of order, because they are so clearly contrary to a decision of the Council adopted by an overwhelming majority, that the only course open to the Council is to ignore them completely, categorically and unreservedly, as it has very wisely done.

DISCUSSION ON WORK OF THE COUNCIL

The PRESIDENT: I had hoped that we would be able to have the committee on petitions sit tomorrow morning, but unfortunately the necessary documents will not be available. I therefore propose that the Council should sit tomorrow, as previously arranged, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 2.30 p.m. to 6 p.m. The item on our agenda would be the report on the Pacific Islands. If that is satisfactory we shall meet at the times indicated.

I have had conference room paper no. 4 drawn up by the Secretariat. This is a revised time table which, it will be seen, extends the duration of our session from 28 March, which I had so earnestly hoped would be our target date, to Friday, 4 April. Are there any comments on this revised time table?

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I feel that we have gone from one extreme to the other. Before this we had hoped to finish on 28 March. It seemed difficult to finish by 28 March, but we had planned on that. Now we have practically decided to delete the work from the 24th to the 28th -- or to delete those days. There are two days when the Council will not meet at all and two days that the Council will meet only on miscellaneous items. I trust that will not take two meetings. We would have one meeting of the Council on the Pacific Islands, and then there would be the two meetings on miscellaneous items; unless those items are very numerous they would not take more than one meeting. It seems to me that we have pushed everything off until the last week and I do not know if that is quite the correct thing to do.

The PRESIDENT: That has been largely to meet the difficulty of the Standing Committee on Petitions.

Mr. KHALIDY (Iraq): We have some time to indulge now in some dialectics on this question. I must say that I share the feelings of the representative of Belgium to a large extent. I think it would be very difficult to set a hard and fast rule. We should try to be both practical and expeditious. Let us get down to business. Shall we say, let the Council meet tomorrow morning and afternoon, take the Pacific Islands by both horns

and let us hope to finish by Friday afternoon? I had hoped that we could do that. If we meet four times, that is, tomorrow and the day after tomorrow, I think we can finish with the Pacific Islands. Let us say that the Council does not meet on one day, Monday, for example, and let us thus give time for all the committees to get down to work. Incidentally, may I mention two things in this connexion? First, could the committees oblige the Council one day by sitting evenings also? This is not too much; I am sure that the committees and the Secretariat can do it.

The second point is connected with the petitions. I share very strongly the feelings of many of the members of the Council, particularly Mr. Sayre, that petitions are very important and that we must comply with the wishes of the Fourth Committee. I think there is a way out of the difficulty. The petitions that are connected with our present agenda should be disposed of expeditiously: that is certain. If there are too many petitions that cannot be disposed of by the end of next week, they can be taken up during the first or second week after the Council adjourns. That means that, instead of the Council's waiting for all the petitions, the Committee on Petitions can do its work after the Council adjourns and can present its report at the beginning of the next session. If that is not possible, we will find another way.

If the Council does not meet all day Monday, the Committees will get down to work. Then, from Tuesday on, the Council will meet continuously -- morning and afternoon, if possible or if necessary -- until it finishes its work, and I am sure we shall be able to finish by the end of next week.

As far as I am concerned, the personal element does not enter into it at all. I am at the disposal of the Council and am willing to sit as long as it wishes; I am simply trying to put forth a suggestion which I think may be helpful.

The PRESIDENT: Let me make it plain that my personal choice would be to finish next week. I was very anxious, as several members know, to leave here at the end of next week. It was merely the stern sense of duty of the President that made him put before the Council an alternative time-table which would give us another week's work, as there were some suggestions that we were rushing matters through too much. I should be delighted if we could finish at the end of next week, and I know that several other members of the Council are in the same position and would like to finish next week. If any way can be found of doing that, no one would be more grateful than I for suggestions which would help in that direction. But I personally do not wish, as President, to do anything which would lead to any criticism of the Trusteeship Council for hurrying over its work. That is my own position in the matter.

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): At the present time, we have 302 petitions for the consideration of the Council during this session. The Committee on Petitions has decided that

it can consider seventy-one petitions and that it will transmit recommendations on these petitions to the Council. Therefore, a certain portion of the whole body of petitions can be considered at this session by the Council. As far as my delegation is concerned, it would consider it improper to transmit recommendations on some 300 petitions at the summer session of the Council because that session is already overloaded. It would therefore be improper not to consider a single petition during the present session of the Council. It would also be unfair to the petitioners who sent in these petitions a long time ago, because the Council would be prevented from adopting proper decisions on the basis of a speedy consideration of these petitions.

We can certainly meet in the morning and the afternoon, or even in the evening. I am quite ready to do that. At any rate, I wish to draw the attention of the Council to the necessity of considering at least seventy-one petitions which the Committee on Petitions has decided to consider during the present session of the Council.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I think no one is more eager than I am to do our work expeditiously and to finish our session at the earliest date practicable. On the other hand, I feel there is one consideration far more important than our personal comfort or convenience as far as finishing our session is concerned, namely, this work-load of petitions which we have not yet gotten sufficiently into. That work on petitions is, to my mind, one of the most important remaining tasks for this Council to achieve. It is our work on petitions which is all-important -- and if, at the adjournment of this session, we were to leave unconsidered a substantial number of these petitions which could be disposed of, I think we would be decidedly to blame.

It will not do to leave the petitions for disposition by the Standing Committee on Petitions. That Committee has no power to make final disposition of petitions. We must dispose of them finally by our own action. I feel that, until we can consider carefully and make final disposition of as many petitions as can be handled at the present session, we have no right to adjourn. I therefore urge strongly that we put the work on the petitions first in our arrangement of the schedule. If we find that that work can be completed before 4 April, then we can complete our session before 4 April. If not, I feel we have no right to terminate our session before 4 April.

So far as the schedule presented to us is concerned, it seems to me to provide for a wise disposition of our time -- subject to alteration as we go along, and subject also to the insertion of additional items. I see that there is no meeting fixed for the Committee on Procedures. It may be that we shall be ready to proceed with the work of that Committee. Again, no meeting is fixed for the Committee on Administrative Unions, and it may well be that that Committee should meet before the termination of the session. In other words, I would urge that we go forward along the lines of the schedule set before us here, with the power to adjust it as we go along, and, if possible, to end before 4 April -- but at least to make the work of the Committee on Petitions our main order of business.

The PRESIDENT: I understand that there are seventy-one petitions which the Committee on Petitions has agreed to consider at this session -- one petition from New Guinea and seventy petitions divided between Tanganyika, Ruanda-Urundi and Somaliland. I should like to ask the members of the Committee on Petitions whether they are the kind of petition that can be postponed until the next session. Can Mr. Soldatov answer that?

Mr. SOLDATOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics): The point is that the Administering Authorities are not prepared to consider at this session the rest of the petitions. That is the main consideration.

The PRESIDENT: If there are only seventy-one petitions to be considered it seems to me that it might be possible to finish them in the time available.

Mr. SAYRE (United States of America): I do not see that it is necessary to proceed with a final adoption of this schedule or any other at this time. There will be two Council meetings tomorrow, as I understand it, on the Pacific Islands. We shall be meeting again on Friday in connexion with the Pacific Islands, and the Standing Committee on Petitions will begin its work Friday morning. On Friday afternoon we can determine how far we have gotten with the Pacific Islands. We can schedule our work as we go along -- always, I hope, giving preference to the Standing Committee on Petitions until it gets near the end of these seventy-one petitions.

Mr. RYCKMANS (Belgium)(interpretation from French): I should like to know whether the Council intends to examine at this session, at a time when we are not concerned with African territories, petitions of a general character concerning those African territories. The Council had decided to examine petitions concerning a given Territory during the general consideration of the situation in that Territory -- with the exception, of course, of petitions of an urgent character or petitions concerning an individual case. Is the Council going to modify that decision?

As far as we are concerned, Mr. Scheyven, who is my alternate, can fulfil the obligations of a special representative for Ruanda-Urundi, because he is assigned to the Territory on a permanent basis. We are therefore quite ready to participate in a discussion of petitions from Ruanda-Urundi. But I am wondering whether the Council will not duplicate its work by considering now petitions of a general nature on questions that the Council will have to reconsider anyway when it studies the situation in Ruanda-Urundi at its next session.

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The PRESIDENT: I gather from the Secretariat that it will not be possible to examine and finish even the seventy-one petitions if we adopt the previous time-table. That time-table showed the concluding date as 28 March. It is very difficult to make any forecast of time because, as the Council knows, we went very slowly over the consideration of the report on New Guinea and we went very fast with respect to the report on Nauru. Let us proceed tomorrow, both morning and afternoon, with the consideration of the report on the Pacific Islands. I should be able by tomorrow afternoon to form an opinion as to how long we are going to take to consider the report on the Pacific Islands. We can then decide whether to complete the consideration of the report on the Pacific Islands, with both morning and afternoon sessions on Friday as well. Let us therefore leave that matter open and proceed tomorrow, as fast as we can, with the report on the Pacific Islands.

The Trusteeship Council will meet tomorrow at 11 a.m. to consider the report on the Pacific Islands, and it will continue with that item in the afternoon.

The meeting rose at 6.05 p.m.