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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 13 June 1955, at 2 p.m.

President: Mr. SEARS (United States of America)

1. Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority on the administration of Nauru [Agenda item 4 d] (continued)
2. Examination of petitions [Agenda item 5] (continued)

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.614 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

55-15796

EXAMINATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY ON THE
ADMINISTRATION OF NAURU, YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 1954 (T/1171 and T/1180)

[Agenda item 4 d/ (continued)]

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Jones, special representative for Nauru under Australian administration, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

Mr. ROBBINS (United States of America): The United States delegation has found the 1953-54 annual report on Nauru most carefully prepared and comprehensive. It wishes to express its appreciation of the report, as well as of the additional information supplied by the special representative, Mr. Jones, in his opening statement and during the questioning period.

From our examination of the report, it would seem that the principal problems of the Administering Authority, which are also matters of considerable interest to the Trusteeship Council, are the questions of how to encourage the Nauruans to obtain the necessary training to enable them to engage in skilled employment on a larger scale and to develop the desire and the capacity to assume increasing responsibility for their own affairs. In regard to this first matter, the United States delegation will look forward with interest to any developments which may result from the report of Mr. Eltham to the Administering Authority on training methods. In regard to the second matter, it is hoped that the development of the Nauru Local Government Council will demonstrate the capacity, on the part of its members, to assume greater responsibility so that their powers may be extended in the near future.

Concerning the question -- discussed repeatedly in the Council -- of the ultimate future of the Nauruans after the phosphate mining has been completed some years hence, my delegation would like to underscore the observation made by the representative of the United Kingdom in this connexion. It may be recalled that he pointed out that with a future total population of possibly less than two thousand Nauruan people, after the phosphate operations cease and foreign labour is withdrawn, it may well be that the island will be able to sustain that number. The idea that this may be the ultimate solution, as a result of the study of the problem by the Nauruans and the Administering Authority, emphasizes the need for studying the possibilities of developing farming and fishing -- matters of which the Administering Authority is well aware.

The 1953-1954 report indicates a considerable amount of progress, which, we believe, deserves favourable comment here in the Trusteeship Council. As illustrations, I would mention, first, the appointment of a Nauruan to a senior post in the administration formerly held by a European -- that is, postmaster; secondly, the reclassification of the public service to provide for incremental increases in salaries and for more opportunities for promotion, which should increase the efficiency and morale of the service; thirdly, the increase of the European staff by one dentist, thereby providing services previously unavailable to the local inhabitants, and by one government survey field assistant and five teachers, who will aid in training Nauruans to participate more widely in the administration; and fourthly, the arrangement for officials of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization of Australia to make a land use survey of the island. We have noted that the results of the land use survey -- results provided the Council by the special representative -- show that only about 600 acres are suitable for coconuts and other crops. We are glad to note that these results have not deterred the Administering Authority from seeking to foster greater agricultural activity in order to provide a broader foundation for life on the island.

We are pleased to note the construction of a new maternity ward, an infant welfare clinic and two ante-natal clinics, and other steps further to reduce the infant mortality rate; the completion of 350 homes for Nauruans; and the opening of a new secondary school. The United States delegation notes with satisfaction the Administration's steps to increase the minimum wage of adult males to £236.10s.9d. and the allocation of 10/- per week for each dependent child.

My delegation shares the views of other members of the Council who have expressed gratification at the fact that the Administration has repealed the remaining provisions of the criminal code relating to corporal punishment. We should also be gratified if the Administering Authority, in consultation with the Local Government Council, found it feasible to remove restrictions on the movement of indigenous and immigrant populations.

We hope that the difficulties regarding land ownership can be solved, in order that the plan for bringing the airfield into conformity with international standards may be carried out.

(Mr. Robbins,
United States)

In conclusion, the United States delegation wishes to encourage the Administering Authority to continue its efforts to assist the members of the Nauru Local Government Council to gain experience in the Territory's affairs, with a view to developing a legislative body in the Territory. Similarly, we would encourage the efforts now being made to prepare Nauruans for greater participation in all phases of the administration of the Territory.

Mr. LALL (India): Before turning to the substance of the remarks which my delegation wishes to offer on the administration of Nauru for the year 1953-1954 I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr. Forsyth -- who is represented here by his colleagues of the Australian delegation -- for the honour conferred on him by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Honours such as these have become the hallmark of the most distinguished of the Queen's administrators. Mr. Forsyth has won the honour for himself, but may we be permitted to take it also as an indication of the high calibre of the work of the Australian administration in general. This is a point which is, of course, relevant to the Territory of Nauru, which, by agreement among the three Administering Governments, is administered -- for the present, at any rate -- by the Government of Australia.

I should also like to thank the special representative for his very helpful statement, which clarified points regarding the administration of Nauru, and for his patience and goodwill in answering the volley of questions which was hurled at him. I am sure that he has become rather used to this operation. May I say that he looks well in spite of it.

(Mr. Lall, India)

In going through this exercise and studying the report, my delegation is gratified at certain developments which have taken place in Nauru. There is the abolition of corporal punishment, to which the representative of the United States just referred. In our view this was always particularly out of place in Nauru because the people of the Territory have often been described as good-natured, peace-loving and law-abiding people, and it seemed particularly obnoxious, if I might say so, that this humiliating form of chastisement should be on the law books with reference to these peoples. Therefore, we are very glad to see that corporal punishment has been completely abolished.

We are also gratified to see that there is a greater emphasis being placed on education. Here again we feel that this is somewhat overdue but we have every hope that there will be even more emphasis on this very necessary aspect of administrative activity in Nauru. Of course, on the other hand, there are some purely administrative regulations which we still find it difficult to understand, or even to accept, as necessary. For example, there is the restriction on the movement at night which extends to all the indigenous inhabitants of Nauru also. Again, I would say that the people of Nauru have been described as peace-loving and law-abiding. Why should they live under this perpetual evening curfew? If a situation is created by bringing strangers into the island whose antecedents are not very well known and whose activities might be anti-social, then surely arrangements can be made to restrict a curfew to them. But to put the peace-loving people of this island under a perpetual evening curfew seems an amazing step to take. We therefore find that situation difficult to understand and we are sure that the administrators in their wisdom will find a way out of this rather extraordinary situation.

So much by way of introductory remarks about the situation in Nauru. We would like now to address ourselves to the substantive picture that emerges in the study of the Territory of Nauru this year in the Trusteeship Council. On Friday the special representative, in reply, I think, to a question raised by my delegation, referring to the flora on the areas which had been excavated for phosphates and had been returned now to their owners, said that the growth of those areas where excavation had been completed was a meagre scrub, stunted growth, under-developed.

(Mr. Lall, India)

The total picture of Nauru seems to us rather like that: stunted, a scrub, under-developed. That seems to us to have been brought out clearly here in this year's discussions on Nauru. May I illustrate why I feel that that is the picture before us. There is, for example, a 90 per cent literacy in the country. That is a high figure, but the surprising thing is that no one has been able to pass the intermediate examination. This is a most extraordinary juxtaposition. A stunted sort of education exists. History, we are told, if you please, is being written because one student has obtained a leaving certificate.

Another illustration is the perpetual curfew to which I have drawn attention regarding people who can never see the evening. This is a most extraordinary way of life. Thirdly, we are told, for example, that the work staff this year has been reduced. Perhaps it had to be reduced. But we are not told of any measures taken to find alternative employment for these people. Were they just let loose? In the opinion of our delegation, this is a strange state of affairs.

What has happened? Why is there this stunted scrub-like growth of life in Nauru? I will approach this matter in the following way: Administrators are notoriously cautious in their reports on Territories under their charge, and do not divest themselves of this over-abundance of caution, which indeed invariably is at its peak when outside administrators are portraying the future prospects of subject peoples. On such occasions we are told how "gradually and in due time" things will happen or how steps are being taken "with a view to the progressive realization of the increasing association of the peoples of the Territory with the affairs of an administration".

This is the sort of language one is used to when administrators in colonial or analagous Territories are writing about the future of such Territories -- frustrating remarks like that with no indication of what really is going to happen in the future. But still the administrators of this Territory, in 1926, when they were writing in their cautious manner the administrative report for the Territory of Nauru, made the following statement which I will now quote. They said:

"The Nauruans are a gentle law-abiding and pleasant-mannered people. It is a pleasure to help them and it requires but little imagination to foresee, as the rising generation reaches maturity, a happy, contented, prosperous and self-reliant community."

That was said by the cautious administrators of Nauru almost thirty years ago of the rising generation at that time, that they would become a self-reliant people. That was the promise thirty years ago. And today, what do we find but a stunted growth.

(Mr. Lall, India)

What has happened to alter even the cautious anticipation of 1926? If that was what the administrators said in 1926, I am sure that the people themselves felt that in fifteen years, in half a generation, they would be a self-reliant community. But what has happened in the meanwhile? Why is it that the rising generation of 1926 is not now a mature, self-reliant community; that is, not a community held up, as it were, by an outside administration which is so clearly indicated by the table which faces page 42 in the annual report before us? If you draw a line across the middle of that page, you will see that the whole structure is upheld by outside administrators. This is not a case at all of self-reliance.

Why is it that thirty years later this prediction of cautious administrators should not have come true? Well, there is a very simple answer. Literally, what has been happening in Nauru is that the ground has been cut from under the feet of the people. This was not so clear in 1926. The exploitation of phosphates was then going on rather meagrely and slowly. No one really knew what they were losing. The people did not realize that their natural resources were being taken away and that nothing was being put in the place of those resources. Now, here is this whole community living under a suspended sentence of banishment, of exile, which we are told will become operative sixty years hence. But at the rate at which exploitation is proceeding or might proceed in the future -- because the implements of mining, I am sure, in a technological world are constantly being improved -- we might be told five years hence that the exploitation will be over in twenty years. So this suspended sentence of banishment is on the heads of these people, and they live under it. And this, mind you, is a fairly ancient Nauruan community which has lived here, I suppose, for centuries, perhaps millenia.

Then we are told that these people show no initiative. How can they show initiative when the ground is being cut from under their feet and when nothing is going to be left to them? How can they become prosperous? How can they develop? How can the terms of the Charter be fulfilled in these conditions? It seems a clear impossibility.

How has this situation arisen? It seems to my delegation that the essence of the matter is that there are two cross-currents at work in this Trust Territory. One of these currents is the Administration which, in the opinion of my delegation, is attempting to function in terms of the Trusteeship Agreement and, by implication, in terms of the Charter. But it can only be an attempt, as I will presently show. So far, so good. It is making that attempt.

But there is another current, a second current, which is much stronger than the first. For the sake of brevity, I will describe that current as the Phosphate Commissioners. We all know what that means. I will not amplify the phrase. This is not meant in any derogatory sense but simply for the purpose of brevity. This current is the one which is virtually a powerful, directing undercurrent in the affairs of the Island. I use that phrase because its exact nature is not revealed to us. We do not quite know exactly what this current is. Apparently, it is not the direct concern of the Administering Authority. It is a sort of State within a State.

My delegation wishes to suggest another view regarding this current, the Phosphate Commissioners, which we feel is a view consistent both with the basic documents of the case and with the Charter. It is that the whole phosphate mining operation and its administration should be considered as an integral part of the administration of the Territory, and that in future annual reports on the administration of Nauru there should be a full report from the Phosphate Commissioners themselves. This, we think, is a modest and a wholly proper request.

I said that it was in consonance with the documents. Why do I make that statement? I draw attention to article 2 of what has now come to be called, I suppose, the Phosphate Agreement, in which it says that "all expenses of the Administration, including the remuneration of the Administrator and of the Commissioners ...". Therefore, the Commissioners are part of the Administration because, when speaking about the expenses of the Administration, we are told that that phrase includes the expenses of the Commissioners. That is very properly the case because article 4 makes it quite clear that the Commissioners are

appointed by the three Governments which, in terms of the Trusteeship Agreement, are in fact the Administering Authority. Therefore, we think it would be possible, in terms of the Phosphate Agreement and of the Trusteeship Agreement, for the activities of the Commissioners to form part of the annual report of this Territory. If that is not done, this main current in the lives of the people will remain a hidden current from this Council.

I also said that if this were to be done it would be in consonance with the Charter. So far as the Charter is concerned, would any of us deny that the Commissioners are overwhelmingly the controlling economic force on the Island? If that is so, then how can we insure compliance with Article 76 (b) of the Charter without a report from this governmental body, this virtual wing of the Administration, for Article 76 (b) says clearly that among the basic objectives of the United Nations shall be the promotion of "the political, economic, social ... advancement of the inhabitants ..."? .

For these reasons, we feel certain that the Administering Authority will accept this suggestion of ours that in future reports on the administration of the Territory there should be included a full report by the Phosphate Commissioners, and we would commend this suggestion to their attention. When the Council does get a full report from the Commissioners -- and we trust that the first of these will be available to us next year with the next annual report -- it will be in a better position to assess to what extent the economic operations on the Island are in conformity with the objectives of the Charter. Until then, we can say very little.

Meanwhile, I think that it would not be out of place if we were to suggest to the Administering Authority that some preliminary steps should be taken to give the Nauruans some direct and intimate participation in the exploitation of their own dwindling resources. For example, to begin with, the Administrator might nominate a Nauruan to represent the people on the Board of Phosphate Commissioners so that there would be some liaison between the people of this Island and the economic activities which so vitally affect their future on this Island.

We remain convinced that fundamentally the answer to the problem of Nauru in terms of the Charter is to rehabilitate the lands of the island which are being exploited. We would suggest to the Administering Authority that this is a test case for that Authority. There are three countries which have been appointed administrators, and they are the beneficiaries from the present arrangements for the mining of phosphates. We cannot ourselves believe that these three countries, which enjoy much of the civilization of our era, would wish to take away the wealth of the land and to close down the homes of the people and scatter the inhabitants elsewhere. Nor, in our opinion, is that at all necessary.

To begin with, on page 21 of the annual report, in chapter 7, there is a table which shows there is almost a thousand acres of culturable land. There are 993 acres of coconut land. That is quite a considerable amount of land. Secondly, there is or there could be a prosperous fishing industry. Thirdly, animal husbandry and poultry-keeping are being introduced, and presumably the animals and poultry can live, at least partly, off the scrub lands of the island.

Then there is our major point. The delegation of India still regards the major problem as that of rehabilitating the excavated phosphate lands. This was suggested last year by the representative of India, Mr. Krishna Menon. This year, we have had a preliminary and somewhat inconclusive verbal report on this suggestion from the special representative in answer to a question I raised.

We would appeal to the three beneficiary countries who get the advantage of the phosphates on the island, and who are also in the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement the Administering Authorities, to accept this problem as a challenge, as a test case.

Fortunately, the area involved is very small. Here is an ideal opportunity to show what human ingenuity and scientific development can achieve in the middle of the twentieth century of our era. Surely the challenge is one which must be accepted and one which must be overcome for the law-abiding, good-natured community, which would otherwise have to be banished from its ancient homeland.

Our proposal in this matter is this: clearly the responsibility rests with the three administering countries and beneficiaries. We suggest that a joint mission of the three countries should go and examine the problem. This would

(Mr. Lall, India)

not necessarily clash with the Administration Agreement between these countries. We hope that we may have a report from such a joint mission before us next year. We know there are difficulties. We have been told of the difficulties with regard to water. There is a water shortage on the island or, rather, there is an erratic but generally very adequate rainfall. But, water storage in similar conditions is a very highly developed technique in various parts of the world, and there is no reason why water storage for agricultural purposes should not be practised in Nauru, where the rainfall reaches 100 inches a year. It sometimes falls off, but generally it is fairly adequate.

Our third suggestion, which we hope will commend itself to the Administering Authority, is that a convention should be established of accepting the advice of the Nauru Local Government Council in so far as it concerns the internal affairs of the island, and, of course, it only does concern the purely local internal affairs of the island, so that when it comes to an amendment of an existing law or the revision of the basic wages, or of children's allowances which, as we have pointed out during the questioning period, seem to us to be extremely low, or when it comes to the expansion of social services or schemes for economic development and so on, there should be this healthy convention of accepting the advice of the Local Government Council.

In our opinion, this would go some way towards fulfilling the objectives of the Charter.

To sum up, we would offer three practical suggestions. One is that there should be an annual report from the Phosphate Commissioners as part of the report on the administration of the Territory. The second is that it is high time that a joint mission of properly qualified persons should go to Nauru to study the problem of land rehabilitation, including the question of water storage for agricultural purposes. Thirdly, we hope that this convention of accepting the advice of the Nauru Local Government Council can be quickly established so that a beginning can be made in proper self-government in this island.

In offering these remarks we are conscious of the difficulties of the Administrator. We have pointed out that he works against, as it were, a strong cross current created by the Phosphates Commissioners. We know very little about that cross current, and we have made a suggestion which we believe may remedy that ignorance on our part.

We are conscious of the difficulties and the peculiar circumstances of Nauru, and we think that the Administrator is doing a good job within the limits imposed by this other operation of which we would like to know more and for which we are making a suggestion, but we do think that these three practical suggestions may lay a modest basis for further consideration of further steps to ensure full compliance with the provisions of the Charter in respect of this Territory.

Mr. S.S. LIU (China): Let me begin by commenting on such aspects of the administration of the Trust Territory of Nauru as indicate some progress during the period under review and which may deserve some recognition from the Trusteeship Council.

First and foremost among the achievements of the Administration during this period was the formal abolition of corporal punishment, which is a matter to which the Trusteeship Council, as well as the General Assembly, has attached the greatest importance and on which they have awaited with great anxiety for some concrete results. The lead which has now been taken by the Australian Government in giving this response to the hopes and expectations of all the Members of the United Nations is highly commendable and should serve as a stimulus to other Administering Authorities which have not yet seen fit to do likewise.

Secondly, the increase in the royalties payable to Nauruan phosphate landowners was another praiseworthy step taken to meet the wishes of the Trusteeship Council and designed to benefit the local inhabitants concerned.

Although my delegation has found it extremely difficult to comprehend the position so insistently maintained by the Administering Authority, as explained by the special representative, in regard to the relationship between the price of the phosphates and the amount of the royalty, we are pleased that this reasoning has not prevented an increase being effected in the latter. However, my delegation feels constrained to point out that while we are quite aware that the expenses of the Administration of the Territory are borne by the British Phosphates Commissioners which, according to the special representative, are not obliged to do anything more, the greater revenue derivable from a higher price

obtained for the phosphate will certainly do no harm to the Administration but, on the other hand, will benefit the indigenous landowners tremendously, since the Administration can utilize the surplus revenue in the form of increased royalties to the landowners, who doubtless need a greater income for the attainment of a higher standard of living.

Consequently, we still hope that the Administering Authority will reconsider its position and endeavour to procure higher prices for the phosphates produced in the Territory so as to make possible greater amounts of royalties to the natives.

Thirdly, the opening of the new secondary school in Nauru was an event of great importance. Hitherto, owing to the absence of such an institution in the Territory, many Nauruans had to be sent abroad to pursue even their secondary education. From now on, the Administration will be able to provide some such education in the Territory itself and devote the expenditure thus spared to other aspects of educational advancement.

One of the things which come immediately to mind is the necessity for promoting higher education. Up to the present, we have not had the pleasure of noting the emergence of a single college student in Nauru. We hope that with the completion of secondary education by a given number of Nauruan youths, we shall be able to see at least some of them attending and graduating from colleges and universities within even a shorter period of time than a decade, as estimated by the special representative.

It is needless to add that unless a group of young people are available who have completed university education and who are qualified to shoulder higher responsibilities than they are capable of now, it is difficult to conceive how they can manage their own affairs as efficiently as they should and truly earn their place as a self-governing or independent people.

I can illustrate this point no better than by making reference to the medical and health needs of the Territory. In answer to a question put by my delegation, the special representative stated that the medical personnel of the Territory is already adequate for its needs. Granted that this is the case, I note from appendix XIX, appearing on page 66 of the annual report, that of a total of forty-four members of the medical staff at 30 June 1954, no less than seven, all of whom are top-ranking personnel, are Europeans. Naturally it is not the wish of either the Administration or the Nauruans themselves to see the medical staff of the Territory perpetually headed by Europeans. More highly qualified indigenous personnel must be trained to take over the

(Mr. S. S. Liu, China)

more important positions hitherto held by Europeans. It is at least in this sense, therefore, that we contend that the medical staff of the Territory is still inadequate for the purposes of the Nauruans and that further steps should be taken to train the senior staff needed.

Let me repeat also that the requirements in the medical and health fields are an illustration of those in other offices likewise which will equally be in need of highly qualified personnel such as only a sufficient university training can produce. In this connexion, however, we have noted with satisfaction the establishment of an efficient dental service, and additional infant welfare and pre-natal clinics in the Territory.

Fourthly, we should like to express our gratification at the appointment of a Nauruan as postmaster and also at the appointment of the head chief as a magistrate in the district court. These are undoubtedly sincere efforts on the part of the Administering Authority to accelerate the Nauruanization of the public services. We welcome them wholeheartedly and we hope that the training of the required personnel will be expedited in such a way that other high posts in the services will soon be occupied by qualified Nauruans.

Fifthly, the execution of the constructive programme, including the building of new houses, deserves the Council's commendation. We trust that much of the congestion which was formerly complained of has been considerably alleviated. We are pleased to hear from the special representative that the workers themselves are in general satisfied with the houses which have been provided for them.

The economic development of the Territory has been proceeding along sound lines. In promoting agriculture, fishing and other activities of a productive nature, the Administration is correct in focusing attention on the future of the Territory, the sustenance of which now depends primarily on the phosphate industry.

The investigations which the Administration has been conducting so far in relation to this all-important problem have been of a constructive character. A search for new sites on which to resettle the inhabitants after the exhaustion of the phosphate deposits on the island is indeed an important matter. We would

(Mr. S. S. Liu, China)

like to see the problem solved in such a way that the inhabitants will not have to leave the Territory even after the exhaustion of the phosphate deposits. But in case that is not feasible, we believe that the investigations in connexion with the new sites should be continued. We hope that the Administration will press forward with the inquiry in all earnestness and inform the Council of the results of progress made from time to time. In order to safeguard the interests of the inhabitants, the closest of consultations with them should be continued.

We have been pleased to note that, although according to law the Administrator may act in opposition to the advice given by the Local Government Council, there has been so far no specific instance in which this has occurred. We hope that this is an indication of a firmly established tradition of the Administrator, acting invariably in accordance with the considered views of the Local Government Council.

We hope also that the powers of the Council will be steadily strengthened so that its members may be able to assume greater responsibility in regard to the management of their own affairs and to acquire the training which they are in need of prior to the Territory's attainment of full self-government or independence.

We are gratified to learn that preliminary discussions are going on with respect to a scheme for the payment of old age, invalid and widows' pensions and other benefits which it is intended will be administered, and rightly so, by the Local Government Council.

Reference has been made to discrimination between European and indigenous workers in the application of the provident fund. We earnestly hope that such inequalities as have caused unfavourable comment in the Trusteeship Council will soon be removed, even before the adoption of the new ordinance governing the benefits just referred to.

An unsettled matter is the payment for land expropriated for the construction of the aerodrome. As this question has been one of long standing and as the Council has been more than anxious to see it settled once and for all

(Mr. S. S. Liu, China)

it is hoped that some definite step will be taken by the Administration looking toward such a definitive settlement as would be acceptable to the owners concerned.

We have been happy to hear about the resolution which the Local Government Council has adopted in regard to the repeal of the Movement of Natives Ordinance. Since the Administrator himself was present at the meeting of the Council which discussed and adopted the resolution and personally expressed his interest in the matter to the special representative, we trust that he will accept the advice of the Council in this instance, as in other instances, and we await with interest the repeal of the ordinance in question, a repeal which has been sought by the Trusteeship Council for a long time.

In conclusion, I should like to extend once more my delegation's warm thanks to the special representative for the usual courtesy and patience which he has displayed in supplying all the information requested of him and in giving his unstinted assistance and co-operation to the Council in the examination of the report. He has shown such an admirable mastery of conditions in the Territory that our task has been rendered much easier than it would otherwise have been.

Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)(interpretation from French): Once again the Council, in the performance of its functions under the Charter, has been called upon to examine conditions prevailing in the Trust Territory of Nauru, according to the report of the Administering Authority, the Dominion of Australia, and the statement of the special representative for the Territory.

Since the population figure is less than 4,000 persons, one might think that no grave problem could exist in such a small community, whose advisers are officials from a country whose institutions accord with the general contemporary concept of democracy. Bearing in mind the fact of the natural resources of the Territory -- phosphates, for example -- the exploitation of which, through several decades to come, indicates considerable revenues which cover, in addition to exploitation costs, all the administrative costs of the Territory and contribute to various provident and investment funds, it might well be argued that the population of Nauru dwell in a veritable Arcadia.

Unfortunately, the situation is not quite as idyllic as might appear at first glance. As we well know, phosphate deposits have a limited duration of exploitation -- two or three score years longer, according to the report for 1953-54. This means that in about half a century from now this particular resource will have vanished. Some of us may be still alive at that time and may rejoice in the measures taken to ensure its survival and the further economic advancement of the population; or we may be beating our breasts because of our failure to see that something was done to ensure such survival.

The special representative was asked what was the population figure of the indigenous inhabitants at the commencement of the phosphate exploitation. The point of the question was that since, out of 3,500 inhabitants, the number of indigenous inhabitants was less than 2,000, when the imported workers leave after the exploitation has been completed, there will be more room for more indigenous inhabitants. The problem of the area of habitation will then be a false one, it might be argued. But this is a rather temerarious reasoning. Noting the Administering Authority's figures for 1953-54, which

(Mr. Dorsinville, Haiti)

indicate the number of non-indigenous individuals as 1,700 or 1,800, we can see that there has been a certain increase. The increase will be eventually up to about 4,800 -- double the present population. They will not then have the phosphate revenues to enable them to procure what the island does not produce and, unless more advanced techniques are used by the population, there is no assurance that they will be able satisfactorily to develop the kind of agriculture which the nature of the soil allows. The problem, therefore, remains a serious one, inasmuch as the amount of resources will decrease and the basis for the support of the population also, as the area of exploitation is increased and various resources are exhausted.

The Administering Authority informs us that the proprietors of the land are given compensation for every tree destroyed and that they receive the land back once the phosphates have been extracted. But what can they do with it? Trees will no longer grow on it. The loss in agricultural productivity will be permanent and irremediable. We believe that the Administering Authority is fully aware of the gravity of this problem; but we note, a tendency to minimize such gravity. We believe that this is an urgent problem and that speed is of the essence in finding its solution.

As regards the prices of phosphate delivered to Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, I should like to state the position of my delegation. The Australian, New Zealand or British individual may rejoice at the situation. The agreement of July 1929 says that the phosphate will be delivered f.o.b. at a price which will take into account the costs of exploitation, maintenance, etc., and the special representative told us that there was no problem regarding the administrative budgets; ways and means were covered by the British Phosphate Commissioners; there were various funds for the benefit of the Territory. On the other hand, I feel that Australian, New Zealand and British farmers obtain phosphate at somewhat low prices and their agricultural pursuits prosper at no great cost, and so everybody should be happy. But, if we examine the situation more closely, we may have some misgivings not shared by the benefiting British, Australian or New Zealand farmers.

(Mr. Dorsinville, Haiti)

If the exploitation of phosphates is not carried out on a commercial basis for profit, as we are told, this policy is bound to have two consequences, and it depends whether one adopts the point of view of the Administering Authority or of the interests, present and future, of the population of Nauru; the conclusions are different according to the point of view.

At present, the low price of Nauru phosphates constitutes a great benefit for the farmers of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, who multiply their profits accordingly. It would appear to us that higher profits could be drawn from the exploitation of Nauru phosphates, not in order further to enrich the British Phosphate Commissioners, but to augment payments made to the proprietors of the lands and to the various trust and investment funds for the benefit of the Territory. For instance, as regards the residential construction programme, we have been told that 350 houses have been completed and that the Local Government Council will now bear responsibility for them. This construction has been carried out over a ten-year period since World War II through advances from the British Phosphate Commissioners. Out of £302,000, £113,000 is still due. The Local Government Council, therefore, is still in debt. This might have been averted if the programme had been financed directly through the various payments, rather than by an advance from the British Phosphate Commissioners, which advance must eventually be reimbursed.

This example illustrates our point of view, namely, that the payments made to various investment and trust funds of the Territory should be higher so as to enable them to cope with various needs which are bound to increase, without being obliged to have recourse to advances from the British Phosphate Commissioners, which means, after all, debts still to be paid.

There is a third point which I should like to raise, and that is the question of separate accounts for Nauru. We have still not heard any valid reason for what is called the impracticability of separate accounts or figures. The Administering Authority could induce the British Phosphate Commissioners to understand that, in order to fulfil the resolutions of the Trusteeship Council, it is necessary to have such accounts, and could demand such accounts. We have the impression that not only does the Administering Authority not wish to apply pressure to the Phosphate Commissioners, but I will go further and read the following from the report, with apologies for my pronunciation:

"It is the desire of the Administering Authority to continue to co-operate and assist the Council, but, in view of the impracticability of establishing and maintaining separate accounts for Nauru, as explained at the fourteenth session, ..."

and I stress this passage in particular:

"... and in the absence of any indication by the Council of the manner in which the keeping of separate accounts would assist the Administering Authority in carrying out its responsibilities, benefit the Nauruans or assist the Council in carrying out its functions, it is felt that to alter the present arrangement, which affords the Council sufficient data to enable it to judge how faithfully the Administering Authority is fulfilling the Trusteeship Agreement, would serve no useful purpose."

Thus, the Administering Authority tells us, point blank: "Be content with what we offer you". These are the facts. How are we to believe that it is impossible to have separate accounts for Nauru when we know that the most elementary principles of accounting require that such separate accounts should be kept -- at least in the books of the British Phosphate Commissioners?

My delegation would have been remiss in its duty if, as a member of the Trusteeship Council, it had not, quite objectively, set forth its point of view on conditions prevailing in a territory under trusteeship. If, so far, we have been critical in our comments, we are nevertheless prepared to recognize that there has been considerable progress in Nauru. The Local Government Council's responsibilities have been increased, although its moves are still rather timid. The postmaster is now an indigenous inhabitant. The Native Affairs Officer -- an indigenous inhabitant -- now has the rank of magistrate in the District Court. We are confident that, as the special representative has assured us, trained elements will shortly be available to serve as a basis for judicial personnel and magistrates. Corporal punishment has been abolished. We note that, in accordance with the advice of the Local Government Council, other restrictions will be eliminated by the Administering Authority. We hope that the fears of the local government authorities in this respect will prove to be ill-founded.

We have taken note of the UNESCO report (T/1180), which notes that the standard of training of the Nauruan teachers, while still leaving something to be desired, is improving and that the present in-service training programme is a useful aid. We have been told that the elementary school curriculum will be revised to take account of the real needs of the Nauruans. We are confident that this curriculum revision will not reduce the standards of primary education for the indigenous inhabitants so that they will be unable to follow higher education in other areas.

In conclusion, my delegation believes that the Trusteeship Council would be well advised once again to express its feelings concerning the problem of the future of the Nauruans, especially as regards the matter of inhabitable land, the increase of payments by the British Phosphate Commissioners to the various trust and investment funds of the Territory, and the separate accounts which should be kept for Nauru in order to allow more complete supervision by the Trusteeship Council -- which, after all, has its own responsibilities to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Mr. GRUBYAKOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In the Soviet Union delegation's opinion, the fulfilment of Article 76 of the Charter is the fundamental criterion for appraising conditions in a Trust Territory and the activities of an Administering Authority. The Soviet Union delegation, aware of its responsibilities as a member of the Trusteeship Council, deems it its duty to state its opinion on conditions in the Trust Territory of Nauru in the light of that criterion.

A study of the Administering Authority's report on Nauru under Australian Trusteeship leaves the impression that, in the time that has elapsed since the trusteeship over the Territory was instituted, no substantial changes have been made to indicate that the Administering Authority has any great solicitude about the economic, social, cultural or political advancement of the indigenous population and that population's progress towards self-government or independence.

As regards the Territory's political situation, the year that has passed since the Trusteeship Council's consideration of the previous report has brought no real progress. The Territory of Nauru has not moved one step forward towards self-government, despite the fact that that is specifically called for in Article 76 of the Charter. Now, as before, power in the Territory is concentrated in the hands of the Administrator, who manages the Territory through administrative machinery under his control. All leading posts in the administrative hierarchy are held by Europeans, as may be seen in the table on page 42 of the annual report. None of the indigenous inhabitants has any responsible administrative post in that hierarchy. The special representative again confirmed -- last Friday, I believe -- that at present no indigenous inhabitant of Nauru takes part in governing the Territory to such an extent as to influence policy concerning the Territory's development. The functions of the Local Government Council remain the same. That Council is still an exclusively advisory organ attached to the Administrator, who is entitled to disregard its advice. Moreover, the Local Government Council's advisory functions are limited to problems relating to the indigenous inhabitants of Nauru, rather than to the entire population.

It must be noted that the fact that the population of Nauru is small should not be regarded as allowing for derogations from Article 76 of the Charter. Thus, on the basis of the interests of the indigenous population and in strict conformity with the Charter, the Trusteeship Council should recommend that the Administering Authority proceed to establish in the Trust Territory organs with full power, composed of indigenous inhabitants, which would actually govern the Territory, in accordance with resolutions adopted by the General Assembly at its sixth and eighth sessions. This Trust Territory is under United Nations trusteeship and, as such, should have at least certain privileges not enjoyed by ordinary colonial territories. But in the case of Nauru it is difficult to draw a distinction between the management of this Trust Territory and the management of some typical colonial territories. The existence of a colonial regime in Nauru is reflected in the activities of the British Phosphate Commissioners. As is well known, the Phosphate Commissioners have a controlling position on the island. As the Visiting Mission noted last year, the administrative autonomy of the phosphate company is unimpaired. The company's prerogatives are virtually unlimited. The fact that the Commissioners practically support the Administration renders the latter dependent on the former. The Commissioners are entitled to rent -- I stress the word "rent" -- any phosphate-bearing land, destroy the trees thereon and exploit the phosphates. This may be done without the acquiescence of the owners of the land: the indigenous inhabitants.

The special representative argued on Friday that the acquiescence of the population had already been elicited in due course since the chiefs, on behalf of the population allegedly, signed this particular commercial arrangement. In 1953 the Visiting Mission noted the discontent of the population at the prevailing arrangements. Some of the representatives of the population in fact disputed the legality of a number of the provisions of the agreement and of the regulations governing the activities of the Phosphate Commissioners. Moreover, what were the legitimate prerogatives of these chiefs in signing these agreements the consequences of which extend to individual landowners and which touch upon, in fact which have a determining impact on, the destiny and the lot of the Territory?

May I add that colonial history teems with examples of so-called legitimate agreements entered into by the authorities with local chiefs, and these agreements repeatedly spelt disaster for the indigenous population involved. In this case it was not just a matter of a contract or agreement, but a situation which has been consecrated and legitimized by governmental ordinances which my delegation can scarcely regard as legitimate from the point of view of the Charter and from the point of view of the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement.

May I add, in passing, that the situation which has arisen in the island serves again to confirm the improper nature of the system of tribal governance which is still, nevertheless, supported by the Administering Authority despite its obsolescence. This system ought to be replaced by a truly democratic system of self-government.

May I be permitted to return to this matter of renting. The renting or leasing arrangements which do not allow the indigenous inhabitants to object to such leasing, or change the conditions thereof, is nothing in practice but sheer alienation of the land of the indigenous population. It is simply taking away the lands of the indigenous inhabitants. The fact that this leasing arrangement is nothing but alienation is further corroborated by the fact that the owner of the land from whom the land is leased -- I do not say "who leases the land" because he does not have any choice; it is taken, leased, rented from him -- loses the land forever in practice.

The Phosphate Commissioners do not return the land originally leased, which was a source of sustenance, cultivation and life for the owner; what they return to the owner is a fruitless, barren piece of clay, of rock, which cannot serve as a basis of sustenance. This is the so-called leasing or renting that is involved. Under the circumstances, it is tantamount to the utter irremediable loss of the land of the indigenous population. This practice is carried out by the Phosphate Commissioners with the connivance and support of the Administering Authorities.

The indigenous population has its land taken away from it irrespective of its wishes. The indigenous inhabitants lose that land forever. From the point of view of my delegation, this is certainly nothing resembling a legitimate lease or renting arrangement. The Administering Authority itself has noted that the exploitation of phosphates in the island will eventually transform all of Nauru into a barren desert. What does that really mean? It means the destruction, the devastation, of the Trust Territory as a whole, and this flies in the face of the Charter and of the Trusteeship Agreement which doubtless have a power that should prevail over a commercial contract.

According to the Charter and according to the Trusteeship Agreements, it is in accordance with those documents that the destiny of the Territory should be determined and not in accordance with a mere business transaction. But the Charter calls for promoting the advancement of the inhabitants of the Territories in accordance with their freely expressed wishes. I must note with regret that a study of these documents has convinced us that the Administering Authority simply discards these principles. It fails to abide by them. The people of Nauru have no self-government, let alone independence. Its representatives do not take part in the management of the Territory or of the Phosphate Commissioners, the corporation under whose activities the destiny of the Territory of the people of Naurua depend.

Therefore, there is ~~need~~ for immediate measures by the Administering Authority to review their phosphate policy in Nauru so as to fulfil the needs of the indigenous inhabitants in line with the provisions of the Charter and of the Trusteeship Agreement, to which the Administering Authorities, after all, are a party.

In this connexion, we cannot disregard the fact that the Phosphate Commissioners and the Administering Authority have set the rental fee arbitrarily. They have likewise arbitrarily set the royalty payments for phosphate exported from the Territory. As is well-known, the Phosphate Commissioners pay only eight pence to the owner of the land for each ton of phosphate exported. I repeat, they pay only eight pence. They also pay forty-five pounds per acre of utterly devastated land, the land that was taken away from the indigenous inhabitant and rendered totally barren. Now we regard this as an injustice. The pay is inadequate because it calls not for a rental but for utter devastation of the land.

The report of the Visiting Mission last year made that point. It pointed out that the indigenous inhabitants also regard the situation as inequitable. We cannot pass over in silence some other conditions in the Trust Territory which likewise are out of line with the provisions of Article 76 of the Charter and the provisions of the Trusteeship Agreement. These further points on which I should like to comment were already discussed by some preceding representatives. In particular I have in mind the practice of discrimination engaged in by the Administering Authority. This discrimination is squarely grounded in laws and practice in the Territory. The racial residential regulations still prevail. There are separate settlements for inhabitants of various racial extraction. Discriminatory legislation is still in force.

The special representative says that the Administering Authority intends to abolish the law which forbids indigenous inhabitants and Chinese workers to move about the island freely. Such regulations are legitimate only in exceptional cases, if there were danger, where there is a state of siege on an island or in a city or a territory. Actually, we have a state of siege in the Territory the sharp edge of which is exclusively directed against the indigenous inhabitants and workers recruited on the Pacific islands or in Hong Kong.

The principle of racial separation also prevails in the hospitals of the Phosphate Commissioners. There are special hospitals for Europeans and others for Chinese and indigenous inhabitants. Discrimination is also applied against the Chinese workers who are recruited for work on the island. They are still forbidden to bring their families along and they are separated from their families, as pointed out in previous sessions of the Trusteeship Council.

Discriminatory practices also occur in the payment of labour, as may be seen on pages 43 through 45 of the report. Some members of the Council have already thanked the Administering Authority for the appointment of a postmaster. But look at the table on page 43 relating to the classified positions and salaries of the European staff. Look at the pay of the postmaster, which is £692-£812. However, on the next page, the salary of an indigenous postmaster is given as £294-\$390, in other words, about 50 per cent of the pay schedule for a European postmaster. The representative of the Administering Authority might tell us that the training required differs. But we have a list of other jobs -- teachers and technical personnel -- whose qualifications in respect of indigenous inhabitants could well be raised to the level of Europeans or people of European stock. However, none of that is done. There is no mention of qualifications or grades as is done here in the United Nations where one can receive increases in steps, for example, from year to year. But here, there are separate schedules for European staff and Nauruan staff with a 50 per cent difference in pay scales. My delegation regards this to be a discriminatory principle whose abolition is in order.

We cannot pass over in silence the fact that the Administering Authority does not guarantee equal pay for equal work for men and women. According to a decision on January 1954, the pay of women is 30 per cent below the pay of men for identical work. As regards adolescents from sixteen to twenty years of age -- they are not children after all -- their pay is 50 to 80 per cent of the pay scale for adults.

The attention of the Administering Authority has already been drawn to the fact that the established level of workers' pay is not in line with the minimum required for subsistence. The subsistence level is calculated on the basis of a family composed of adults. However, elementary rules for computing the subsistence minimum should take account of a family of at least four people, adults and children.

(Mr. Grubyakov, USSR)

There are points omitted in the report, moreover. The report only gives us the rules for recruiting foreign workers for work in this Territory. However, this recruited staff is almost half of the self-supporting population of the Territory. Therefore, the Trusteeship Council cannot be indifferent to what is done in the Territory, even though this is not done to indigenous inhabitants proper but to workers recruited from abroad. The Council should examine living conditions, pay scales, working conditions etc. relating to workers recruited from abroad for work in this Territory.

As regards educational advancement, formally speaking -- I stress this -- as my delegation reads this in the report, the children of the inhabitants of the Territory are in a position to secure primary and even secondary education. Facilities would appear to be available. But the UNESCO report draws our attention to the actually low training standards of instructional staff. We are told that the Administering Authority is not in a position to note any such success as being able to tell us that any one inhabitant of Nauru has entered a higher educational institution or that any inhabitant of Nauru has received a complete secondary or higher education. This is after more than thirty years of administration of the Territory by Australia. We consider, therefore, that the Council should recommend to the Administering Authority that it increase its appropriations for health service and education, to make available bursaries, fellowships and scholarships for higher education in universities etc. so as to train prospective teachers for the Territory's schools on a higher level.

In conclusion, the Soviet Union delegation wishes to touch on one further point to which it has already drawn the attention of the special representative: the question of the future of the Territory. At the beginning of my statement, I had already given the view of my delegation to the effect that, in order to have a normal situation in line with the Charter and the Trusteeship Agreement, it is necessary for the indigenous population itself to state its views and its choice freely. The indigenous population, therefore, should have a minimum of self-government and a minimum of participation in the governance of the Territory so as to be able freely and autonomously to express and to develop its opinion as to the future destiny of the Territory.

Friday, I asked whether the Administering Authority felt that, thirty years from now, the inhabitants of Nauru would be in a position to express their choice as to their future life. Could the Administering Authority, making the efforts that it makes now, ensure that these 1,800 people on the island -- and there may be more than that number thirty years from now -- could say at that time as responsibly as the Administering Authority that, for example, "we do not want to be resettled and we want to stay here"; or "we do want to have this done"; or "perhaps we want to become workers and be settled, let us say, in Australia or New Zealand or Great Britain or anywhere else"? In other words, would the stage be reached thirty years from now when the indigenous population would itself be consulted and state its views responsibly?

The special representative objected to this way of asking this question. It is not a dilettantist sort of question. We feel that, thirty years from now, the Nauruan people may be held to be possessed of no less political wisdom than the members of the Council sitting here or others who wish to determine the destiny of these people three-score years from now, totally disregarding their wishes. As at past sessions, the Soviet Union delegation now wishes again to press this point that the Council should recommend to the Administering Authority that it strictly adhere to the resolutions of the General Assembly relating to the question of granting self-government or independence to the people. Only if that fundamental condition is adhered to can the success of the Trusteeship System be ensured. In other conditions, the Trusteeship Council may find itself marking time and merely recording, after some years, the irremedial destruction of this Trust Territory and the disposal by an alien power of the destiny of this small people who deserve a better and more solicitous attitude by the Council, which should at least see to it that this people should be able freely to determine its future destiny.

Mr. BARGUES (France) (interpretation from French): A small island such as Nauru, isolated in the Pacific, can only enjoy a languishing existence whilst an indolent population engages in the fishing or in collecting coconuts. However, the existence of the phosphate deposits in Nauru has led to a radical modification of the economy and social structure of the island, and a craftsman's economy has taken its place. The exploitation of the phosphate deposits, which has been carried out in a rational manner by the three Commissioners representing the countries responsible for the administration of the Territory, does give a substantial advantage to the population.

In the first place, 95 per cent of the ordinary budget expenditure is covered by the profits derived from the exploitation of the phosphate deposits. Secondly, the dues from the export of phosphate has made large funds available for social operations, and the expenditure of the Administration has thus been covered. The population does not have to pay taxes, except for taxes on certain luxury items such as tobacco and alcohol, corresponding to the remuneration for such services. Fourthly, the majority of the inhabitants employed in the administrative services and in the phosphate operations receive normal wages.

As a result, relative ease prevails in the Territory, and one must be happy about this fact. However, one must not forget that all this is due exclusively to the profits derived from the mining of the phosphate deposits. Of course, there are some disadvantages in this, but these are not sufficient to outweigh the advantages I have enumerated. Nevertheless, these disadvantages merit the attention of the Administering Authority.

We note in the first place that the majority of the inhabitants have lost their spirit of enterprise, and they have neither the desire nor the possibility to devote themselves to agricultural activities. Without dwelling on the disadvantages of such a situation in the moral sphere, we would simply point out that the economy of the island is particularly subject to crisis or depression caused by the closing of certain markets or a sudden decline in the price of phosphate, and this obliges the Administering Authority to take steps to safeguard the population in this respect. We are sure that with respect to this the Administering Authority will not fail in its duty.

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(Mr. Bargues, France)

The situation will become more worrying when the phosphate deposits are exhausted and exploitation ends. The representative of the Administering Authority has stated that probably this will not happen for at least fifty years and that the Australian Government is already giving its attention to the problem and considering various solutions to ensure that the indigenous inhabitants have a reasonable subsistence when the source of the present profits has disappeared. The efforts of the Administering Authority in this respect deserve the attention and the encouragement of the Trusteeship Council.

While it would be difficult now to express precise views, at least we can mark our disfavour of any solution which would upset the living standards and the customs of the population as would be the case in a mass migration.

It is difficult to look into the future of the population of this Territory, but the French delegation wonders whether the purposes of Article 73 of the Charter, which the Administering Authority is trying to attain with prudence and discernment, should be sought within the narrow framework of a small island. It might perhaps appear preferable to the Administering Authority and to the Trusteeship Council to preserve Nauru from dangerous isolation by directing it towards a regime which while bestowing autonomy upon it, would integrate it within a greater economy and political community.

In conclusion, the French delegation wishes to express its thanks to Mr. Jones, the special representative, for the replies and the pertinent explanations which he has given to the Council. Finally, the French delegation adds its congratulations to those which the representative of India addressed a moment ago to Mr. Forsyth, the head of the Australian delegation, on the distinction which has been bestowed upon him.

Mr. SERRANO-GARCIA (El Salvador) (interpretation from Spanish):

I should like, on behalf of my delegation, to make some brief comments upon the political, economic and educational conditions obtaining in the Trust Territory of Nauru.

(Mr. Serrano-Garcia, El Salvador)

In an island so sparsely populated and so limited in extent, work on a greater scale cannot be carried on, but by combining the available resources and before the phosphate deposits are exhausted -- which will be, as it were, the farewell of Nauru -- one can nevertheless lead the people to a peak of material and moral progress much higher than that prevailing in any other Territory. The Administering Authority, in our opinion, is co-operating with enthusiasm in the achievement of such a purpose.

We are happy to welcome the information contained in the annual report of the Administering Authority, from which the Council has learned that a new organization has been adopted under which there is to be an increase in the salaries paid to the administrative staff and under which new promotion opportunities will be available. What we did learn with genuine pleasure was the new hope which the special representative gave us when he told us, very categorically, that the Administration has abolished those provisions which authorize corporal punishment, the existence of which, as I stated in my observations last year, cast a shadow on the effective work which the Administering Authority has been carrying out in the Territory.

In our opinion, the total abolition of corporal punishment represents and fully reflects the good will and the good intentions of the Administering Authority and its determination to respect and to follow the recommendations made to it. We are extremely glad of this fact because my delegation in the past has been somewhat tiresome in stressing, both in the Trusteeship Council and in the Drafting Committee, the necessity of the abolition of such forms of punishment. The wise step taken by the Administering Authority is one which we warmly hope will be followed by a further step, namely, the total abolition of those ordinances which restrict the freedom of movement of the indigenous inhabitants. We feel that it is also urgent that such restrictions should be abolished, and we trust that in the coming year the special representative will be able to give us the deep satisfaction of hearing a corresponding announcement.

(Mr. Serrano-Garcia, El Salvador)

We feel that the rate of progress achieved in building houses for the indigenous inhabitants could be increased, and, in view of the enthusiasm and good will shown by the Administering Authority, I feel that an attempt will be made to do so. By this means, a solution would be found to a problem which requires an immediate solution.

Another problem which is very urgent, and which has been the subject of recommendations in the past, is that of the future of the population after the phosphate deposits are exhausted. As I have said, the exhaustion of these deposits will be the death-knell of the Territory.

Despite the fact that reforms have been introduced to improve the operation of the schools, and despite the fact that a new school is to be constructed, according to the annual report, it seems to us that in this field a great deal still remains to be done.

(Mr. Serrano-Garcia, El
Salvador)

Inasmuch as the inhabitants are so few in number and are not separated by great distances, it is quite normal that we should find only a small degree of illiteracy among the population. I suppose that efforts are being concentrated on the younger generations with a view to improving educational facilities.

Before concluding, I should again like to thank the special representative for the courteous and efficient manner in which he has replied to all our questions.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): Because of its small size and population, the present problems of Nauru are easier to deal with than is the case in any of the other Trust Territories. The people of the Island are indeed fortunate in having as their main source of livelihood a natural product of great value. But one of the problems of the Territory which has engaged the interests of the Council for many years is the future which should be planned for the inhabitants when the phosphate deposits run out.

As is well known, the best estimate of when this will be is from fifty to sixty years hence. That is a long period, judged by the standards of modern history and the rate of progress in research. Nevertheless, the Australian Administration has taken a number of positive steps in examining the problem of the future of the Islanders, and will continue to do so.

This is a wise measure, and more important still are the steps which have been taken by the Administration to focus the attention of the Nauruans themselves on their future, since there can be no doubt when the time comes to take decisions that the wishes of the Nauruans will be a predominating factor.

I observed earlier in this debate that we were considering the future of a small people numbering less than 2,000. Although, with the great material benefits which they are enjoying year by year in increasing measure, that number is bound to increase, we are not facing a problem of great magnitude. It seems moreover beyond doubt that the Island could support some inhabitants even without the main source of livelihood which is represented by the phosphates.

In this connexion, the activities of the Administration to foster interest in agriculture generally are of considerable importance. The careful study which the Administration is giving to all aspects of this problem, without committing itself to a definite course of future policy, is to be commended.

I wish now to comment briefly on the question of the prices received by the Phosphate Commissioners for phosphate derived from their several enterprises. Whether or not the price is a high or low one, it must in any case be extremely difficult to determine since the commodity in question does not lend itself to the establishment of a world market price. But the question which is of real concern to the Council is whether the Administration is prevented from undertaking all necessary and practical projects through the insufficiency of the finances received from the Commissioners. We have no evidence that that is the case. So long as that is so, the question of the price received for the phosphates does not enter into the picture.

I have already referred to the good fortune of the Nauruans. In this connexion, members of the Council will have heard with interest that public expenditure during the past year was 27 per cent higher than in the previous year. Progress in capital works within the educational and health fields has been noticeable, and a further decline in infant mortality has been noted. All the social services are provided free by the Administration. In addition, the basic wage paid to Nauruan employees has increased from £2.8s.4d. to £4.11d. a week. During the year under review, we have seen the drawing up of a constitution for the Nauruan Workers' Organization with the help of the Administration. Also within the social field the Council will wish to note with satisfaction that the Chinese and Native Labour Ordinance has been amended so as to exclude the provisions relating to penal sanctions from breach of contract. We can also hope to see before long the abolition of restrictions on movement on the Island due to the persuasion exerted by the Administration on the Local Government Council.

The picture over the year is one of considerable material progress. The question must be asked whether the Nauruans will not, as their benefits accumulate from year to year, take all for granted and contribute too little themselves. The policy of the Administration is designed to counteract this.

The Local Government Council, which already has power, is being stimulated to exercise that power. Education, fundamental to the progress of any people, is being pushed ahead. The Nauruans fortunately have time in which to reach maturity, and there can be no doubt that under the wise leadership of the Australian Administration, they will achieve that goal.

In conclusion, I should like, on behalf of my delegation, to thank Mr. Jones for his replies to the questions we have asked and for his useful contributions to the discussion of the report.

The meeting was suspended at 4 p.m. and resumed at 4.25 p.m.

Mr. LCOMES (Australia): If I may speak very briefly at this point, I should like to thank the representatives of India and France for the very kind remarks which they made concerning the leader of my delegation, Mr. Forsyth, on the occasion of his being granted an honour by Her Majesty the Queen. I have informed Mr. Forsyth of these remarks, and he has asked me, on his behalf to express his appreciation to the representatives of India and France.

The PRESIDENT: Before proceeding to the next item on our agenda I should like to read from a published report of the Brookings Institution, one of our leading research institutions in this country. Its observations related to the work of the United Nations and, by implication, to the work of this Council. The body of the report states that the United Nations:

"... played a leading part in making the adjustments needed because of the emergence of nationalism in the former colonial areas of Asia and Africa." (The New York Times, 13 June 1955)

Since this observation appears to bear on our particular activities, I draw it to the attention of the Council. It points up and, in a sense, gives public recognition to the useful role which we are trying to play in the discharge of our duties. I shall make it a point, while I am President of the Council, whenever I see any remarks of an encouraging nature, to draw them to the attention of the Council, because I believe that we have a role to play which is far greater than the general public realizes.

EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS: 118th, 119th, 120th AND 122nd REPORTS OF THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS (T/L.571, L/572 and Add.1, L/573, L/575).

/Agenda item 5/

The PRESIDENT: We shall consider first the 118th report of the
Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.571), dealing with petitions concerning
Somaliland under Italian administration. The annex to this report contains the
draft resolutions proposed by the Committee. In accordance with the established
procedure, I shall put each of these draft resolutions to a vote.

Draft resolution I was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Draft resolution III was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I would
request a separate vote on paragraph 4 of draft resolution IV. It would
appear to me to be difficult to ask the Secretary-General to communicate to the
petitioners the text of the part of the report of the Visiting Mission on this
Territory. That report has not yet been discussed and we have not yet received
the observations of the Administering Authority concerning it. Therefore, it
would be rather difficult to adopt this paragraph 4 in the circumstances.

The preamble and paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of the operative part of draft resolution IV were adopted by 6 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

There were 6 votes in favour and 6 against paragraph 4 of the operative part of draft resolution IV.

The PRESIDENT: After a token recess to conform with rule 38 of the rules of procedure, the Council will take a second vote.

Paragraph 4 was not adopted, 6 votes being cast in favour and 6 against.

Mr. TARAZI (Syria) (interpretation from French): I regret that paragraph 4 of draft resolution IV has not been adopted. In the circumstances, I should like to change my vote on the preamble and the first three operative paragraphs. Instead of abstaining, I should like to vote against those provisions, and I should like this to be duly recorded.

Draft resolution V was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Draft resolution VI was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

The recommendation contained in paragraph 3 on page 2 of document T/L.571 was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: The Council will now vote on the draft resolutions contained in the 119th report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.572 and T/L.572/Add.1). This report also deals with petitions concerning Somaliland under Italian administration.

Draft resolution I was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 7 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Draft resolution III was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Draft resolution IV was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Draft resolution V was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: I would draw the Council's attention to the fact that the Committee has proposed an amendment to draft resolution VI. That amendment is contained in paragraph 2 of document T/L.572/Add.1.

Draft resolution VI, as amended, was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Draft resolution VII was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Draft resolution VIII was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Draft resolution IX was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: With respect to draft resolution X, the Standing Committee on Petitions has proposed an amendment which is set forth in document T/L.572/Add.1, paragraph 4.

The draft resolution, as amended, was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

Draft resolution XI was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

The recommendation contained in paragraph 3 on page 2 of document T/L.572 was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

The President: The Council will now vote on the recommendation contained in paragraph 3 of the 120th report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.573).

The recommendation contained in paragraph 3 of document T/L.573 was adopted unanimously.

The PRESIDENT: The Council will now vote on the draft resolutions contained in the 122nd report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.575). This report deals with petitions concerning Togoland under British administration.

Draft resolution I was adopted by 5 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

Draft resolution II was adopted by 7 votes to none, with 5 abstentions.

The recommendation contained in paragraph 3 on page 1 of document T/L.575 was adopted by 6 votes to none, with 6 abstentions.

The PRESIDENT: Our work for today is now concluded. The agenda for tomorrow is as follows:

(The President)

1. Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority on the administration of Nauru, year ended 30 June 1954 (T/1171 and 1180)
2. Arrangements for the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Togoland under British Administration and Togoland under French administration, 1955 (T/1182)
3. Arrangements for the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of the Cameroons under British administration and the Cameroons under French administration, 1955 (T/1185)
4. Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority on the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, year ended 30 June 1954 (T/1173, 1179 and 1181)

The meeting rose at 4.50 p.m.