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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 16 June 1955, at 2 p.m.

President: Mr. DORSINVILLE (Haiti)

Examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority
on the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands
[Agenda item 4 c] (continued)

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e., the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.617 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed volume.

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) [Agenda item 4e] (continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Delmas H. Nucker, special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands under United States administration, took a place at the Trusteeship Council table.

Political advancement (continued)

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I should like to ask one or two questions which pertain to the political situation in the Territory. The first question has to do with the comment contained on page 26 of the annual report which says that in some municipalities the heads of those municipalities are chiefs. I should like to know how many municipalities in the Trust Territory are headed by chieftains.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I do not have the precise number of municipalities headed by chieftains. I would be pleased to obtain that information and supply it at a later date. I believe that less than one-third of our municipalities are headed by chieftains.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I hope that the special representative will supply this data in the course of the discussion of the report on the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I shall be glad to obtain the information and supply it during this examination.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My next question has to do with the question of payments to chieftains. I would be grateful to the special representative if he could tell me how the services of the chieftains are remunerated. Are they paid by the local population or by the Administration, or if they are simultaneously heads of municipalities, do they receive salaries from the municipality?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The chieftains are paid by the municipalities when they hold municipal offices. As chieftains, without holding a municipal office, there is no pay involved. Rather, their position of chieftain entitles them to certain benefits which have developed over the years in the specific areas involved.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Should I interpret the reply of the special representative as meaning that the chieftains receive a certain remuneration for their services as chieftains from the local population? Are there any specific categories which entitle the chief to the receipt of pay in kind or in money? Or are there cases when chieftains receive subsidies from the Administration?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): As chieftains, the individuals do not receive salaries from the Administration. They do not receive remuneration from the people in their municipalities on any regularized basis which can be construed or considered to be payment in lieu of wages or salaries. The chieftains in the Trust Territory, as chieftains in other areas, by right of their positions do receive from time to time from the people shares in the harvest, of fishing etc., but it is not on a regular payment basis.

Economic Advancement (continued)

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My question is connected with page 54 of the report which deals with land which is now in the hands of the Administration. I should be grateful to the special representative if he could tell us what amount of land was returned to the indigenous population of the land which was held by the Administration.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I believe I can answer that question in terms of percentages rather than in terms of specific amounts in square miles or acres. During the past year, we have surveyed each of our district centres. We have reduced in those district centres the amount of land required by the district operation and have turned the excess land over to the Micronesians. We have made available in many areas land for homesteading purposes.

(Mr. Nukar, Special representative)

At the present time, it is a very safe statement to make that of all the land in the Trust Territory not more than 50 per cent of it is public land, and approximately 50 to 55 per cent of that land is private land. In other words, during the past year, we have returned to the Micronesians approximately 10 per cent of the land held prior to this year as public land.

(Mr. Nucker, Special representative)

The members of the Trusteeship Council will remember that last year the statement was made that at least 60 per cent of the land of Micronesia was public land, leaving 40 per cent for private land. At the present time, about 50 per cent of the land is public land and 50 per cent private land.

Mr. BENDRYSHIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Does the Administering Authority intend to transfer the balance of the land to the indigenous population? When is it expected that this transfer will be completed?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The Administering Authority does intend to turn the land back to the Micronesians as quickly as it is possible and feasible and consistent with good administration. Some of the land must be retained as public domain for water-shed purposes, forest reserves etc. In the main, however, the Administering Authority has no desire to retain land for the sake of retaining any given area. Certain of the land must be retained for administrative purposes and for the use of other governmental agencies in the area. However, I believe that within three to five years our land programme should be completed in respect to the return to the Micronesians of that land which should be returned.

Mr. BENDRYSHIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Could the special representative tell us what is delaying the handing over of this land to the indigenous population?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): There are several factors which cause delay. One is that of surveying the land in question. Micronesia consists of numerous islands scattered over great distances, and on many of these islands there are minimum facilities. During the past year we have increased our surveying team and our land title officers, and we have made progress. The physical side of the problem alone requires time to surmount. In addition, there is the settling of the issues with respect to the customs, mores and habits of the islanders themselves. In some areas the land follows the matrilinear side of the family, while in other areas the land follows the patrilinear side. In other areas,

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representative)

individual ownership does not exist. The land is the common property of a clan and is controlled in its use by the chieftain or the head of the clan. These various methods of control of land create problems when an attempt is made to return land to its rightful owners. Those are the two major reasons why the land programme will be slow with respect to the return of land to the rightful owners.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My next question also relates to this problem, but refers to a different document, namely, document T/1179. On page 3 of that document it is stated that 332 acres of government land have been leased to Micronesians. In this connexion, did not the Micronesians claim this land which is being leased to them? Did they not claim that the land belonged to them?

(Mr. Nucker, Special representative)

Over the years the land transferred in title to the Governments mentioned. At this time, it is my belief that the Administering Authority has the right to effect leases for the land in question.

Mr. SEARS (United States of America): I thought that it might be interesting to state to the Council that we have just received word through Washington that Mr. Sablan, who addressed the Council yesterday, and his son have both been re-elected to a new two-year term in the Saipan Congress.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): Let me be the first to congratulate Mr. Sablan on his re-election to Congress. I have one or two questions on the economic field which I should like to address to the special representative. The first one relates to the production of phosphate. I note that the Territory exported over 105,000 tons of phosphate in the fiscal year 1954. At 15 per cent ad valorem of the phosphate shipped, this amount produced in revenue under the phosphate processing tax, \$75,887. Last year, 1953, when 70,160 tons were produced, the amount of revenue under the processing tax was only \$32,233. The revenue has more than doubled although the volume of phosphates exported has increased by only 50 per cent. I wonder whether the special representative can explain those figures.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The difference in the return from phosphate when compared with the tonnage of phosphate involved is occasioned by the fact that the 15 per cent revenue is based against the price of phosphate in Florida, the market price at the time of sale. That price has fluctuated. Therefore, the application of 15 per cent to a current price would produce different results. It cannot be judged only in terms of tonnage.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): Still on this question of phosphates, I now understand completely the answer to the question I put. My next question relates to the land rental paid by the Phosphate Mining Company. I should like to ask the special representative: Who receives the benefit of this land rental?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The land rental paid by the Phosphate Mining Company goes directly to the owners of the land being mined.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): I note that some \$65,000 in two grants, one a regular grant and one a special grant of \$50,000, was paid out to the beneficiaries by the Angaur Mining Trust Fund in 1954. I should like to ask the special representative first of all approximately how many beneficiaries are there and in what form was this sum paid?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Each Angaurese participated in the benefits of these payments. The payments are made in accordance with the Trust Fund Agreement which provides for an annual amount to be returned to the Angaurese.

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The payments are broken down as between Angaurese land which is under active mining operation and Angaurese-owned land which is not being mined. The former receive a larger proportion of the payments.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): I am correct, then, in assuming that the sum is paid in money?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Yes, that is correct.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): Would I also be correct in assuming that the beneficiaries number something in the vicinity of 470 persons? I have taken that figure from page 114 of the report, which gives the population of the Angaur Municipality.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The representative of New Zealand is correct. The figure was something over 400 the last time it was estimated.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): My next question relates to copra. I note from page 51 of the annual report that prices are paid for three different grades of copra. I wonder whether the special representative could give me some indication of the approximate percentage of copra exported that is allocated among the various grades. In other words, is most of the copra in the first grade or in the third grade? Could he give me some clarification on the point?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Most of the copra which is exported is in grade No. 1. We in the Trust Territory are quite proud of our copra. It brings, as a rule, a premium price in the world market.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): The special representative gave an interesting reply yesterday to a question by the representative of Australia in relation to the new marketing arrangements for copra. I should like to ask one or two supplementary questions on that point.

(Mr. Scott, New Zealand)

I should like to know, first, whether the local companies which have taken over, as I understand, the functions of the Island Trading Company, pay to the producers the whole of the sum which they receive from the commercial company which now markets copra.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The local trading company does pay the amount received, less an amount to cover transportation costs which, normally, are in the neighbourhood of \$10 a ton. When copra needs to be picked up from the outer islands by the trading company sending a small vessel or ship to those islands, there is a difference of \$10 a ton in copra thus picked up and that which is delivered to the trading company.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): Is the price which is fixed by the Copra Stabilization Funds to be paid to the locally owned companies the same for every district, or does it vary from district to district according to freight rates or distance from a central point?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The price established by the Copra Stabilization Funds is applicable to the entire district. There is no differentiation between districts or between islands within districts.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): I believe that the special representative said yesterday that, among the members of the Copra Stabilization Board, were some of the managers of the local companies. I should like to ask the special representative whether the copra producers themselves have any organization or association which could be represented in any way on the Stabilization Board.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): There is no organization of copra producers within the Trust Territory. Most of our copra comes from owners of small acreage and consists mainly of a few hundred pounds from each individual. We have one or two fairly large producers of copra. Those individuals constantly meet and talk with the local Island Trading Company. Through the contacts of the local traders with the individual growers we are kept aware of the attitude in the field, but there is no formal arrangements for exchange of information.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): Turning to another topic, I should like to ask the special representative whether there is any potential for the development of hydroelectric power on the high islands of the Territory -- I mean, of course, small hydroelectric stations.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): To the best of my knowledge, there is no potential for the development of hydroelectric power on the high islands. Our electricity now is provided at the various administrative centres by diesel-operated power plants. To begin with, I believe that the water available in the high islands for hydroelectric power is not such as to permit a feasible programme for furnishing power by means of that source.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): Would the special representative say what are the possibilities for the production of, first, coffee and, secondly, citrus fruits as small industries in the Territory?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Several years ago a coffee experiment was tried on Saipan, but it did not prove to be successful. We are now planting some coffee plants on Babelthaup in the Palau and a few in the Ponape district. The consensus of agriculturists seemed to be that the coffee plant could not be expected to become a true economic resource of the Territory. Citrus fruits are grown in Ponape successfully, but not on a commercial basis as yet. Limes and a local form of grapefruit are grown there.

(Mr. Nucker, Special
representative):

I believe that, apart from Ponape, the nature of the soil and the climate and the amount of rainfall involved will effectively prohibit the commercial cultivation of citrus fruits.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): My last question relates to the depredations of the rhinoceros beetle. I should like to ask the special representative whether there has been any success in controlling and exterminating the rhinoceros beetle through the use of any predators other than the Scolia wasp or some other means.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I know of no other predator which has been found to combat the rhinoceros beetle, other than the Scolia wasp. Headway is being made in the fight against the rhinoceros beetle, particularly in the Palaus, through the use of the Scolia wasp. The only other method of control with which we have had any success involves cleaning up the areas concerned -- eliminating the decaying matter which accumulates in and around the cocoanut trees, cleaning up the stumps, painting over the top of the stumps with an asphalt mixture which prevents the beetle from boring into the stump to lay its eggs, and, in general, eliminating old piles of wood which have gathered over the years. In that way, we seem to be cutting down on the new life so far as the beetle is concerned. In short, a preventive clean-up campaign and the use of the Scolia wasp have so far proved to be our best method of getting this very obnoxious pest under control.

Mr. DOISE (France) (interpretation from French): My first question concerns taxation. We read in the report that "capitation taxes are levied by most municipalities" and that "the rate varies considerably". The islands making up the Trust Territory are quite remote from each other. I should like to know, therefore, the basis on which the tax rate is levied. For instance, is it levied on the basis of the basic average wage of a cultivator? I put

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this question because there seems to be a considerable variation in the tax rate. In most cases, it is approximately \$2.00, but it goes as high as \$12 or \$13 in one municipality in the Marshall Islands. It is quite normal that the rate should vary, but I should like to know why it varies so much.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The rate varies in accordance with the ability which the councils feel the people in the various areas have to pay taxes. In some areas where, for instance, there is a larger copra production, there is a higher rate, based on a dollar taxation programme. In other areas, where there is very little dollar income, the rates generally are considerably lower.

Mr. DOISE (France) (interpretation from French): In the field of commercial activity, many questions have already been put with regard to the liquidation of the Island Trading Company in favour of new indigenous trading companies established in the same districts. I shall not, therefore, dwell on that point. We should, however, like to know what role is played at present by the Northern Marianas Development Company, the activity of which is, I think, limited to the Saipan District.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The Northern Marianas Development Company is wholly owned and operated by native Saipanese. The Company's charter provides that no person shall be elected to the board of directors unless he is a stockholder. The Northern Marianas Development Company harvests, stores and sells the copra and acts for the copra grower in the Saipan area, in much the same way as the Island Trading Company formerly acted for Micronesians throughout Micronesia.

Mr. DOISE (France) (interpretation from French): According to the statistics to be found on page 147 of the annual report, and the following pages, there was a deficit in the balance of trade in 1951, 1952 and 1953, but that was not the case for 1954. The statistics show that the exploitation of

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phosphates plays a very important role in the 1954 position in this respect. The value of phosphate exported in 1954 was \$2,049,900, out of a total value of exports of \$3,342,789.51. Among the items that were imported, we see large quantities of such food staples as rice, which amounted to 16 per cent of the import value.

In view of those figures, would it not be possible to cultivate rice in certain areas -- for instance, in the so-called high islands? Would it not be possible to diversify the agricultural production? We know that the Administering Authority is concerned about this matter, since it has endeavoured to make it possible to cultivate cocoa in the islands.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Rice became a food staple under the Japanese. There have been a few experiments in rice cultivation, particularly in the Northern Marianas. The problem throughout Micronesia seems to be related to the soil structure. The soil in Micronesia is either coral or volcanic in nature; it is a very loose soil and does not retain water. Hence, the growing of rice is, I am told, next to impossible.

Mr. DOISE (France) (interpretation from French): I am very happy to have that clarification. Since I now know that the conditions are not suitable for rice cultivation, I would ask whether the indigenous inhabitants have demonstrated any interest in the research being carried out by the Administering Authority in respect of the cultivation of cocoa.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): One of the pleasant surprises to me in the past year has been the willingness of the Palauans and the Ponapeans to participate in the cocoa experiment. We have a cocoa experimental station on Babelthaup, which is a high island. Starting originally with eighty acres, it has now been expanded to one hundred acres. That plantation has distributed cocoa seedlings to numerous Palauans. Cacao seedlings have also been distributed to numerous Ponapean families, who are planting them in their backyards and wherever they have a little free space. It is estimated that today we have well over 100,000 cacao plants growing in Micronesia, and about 30,000 of those plants are in individual backyards and homes.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium)(interpretation from French): I wish to come back to the question of land titles. The same question was raised by the representative of the Soviet Union. I should like to know whether the Administering Authority has been leasing land which previously belonged to the indigenous population -- whether this land was owned privately by the indigenous population or whether it was collectively owned by them.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I know of no land leased from Micronesians by the Administering Authority. We have been engaged in disposing of land which we acquired when we became the Administering Authority, and not in acquiring land.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium)(interpretation from French): As to the land acquired by the Administering Authority, was it covered by private ownership titles or by collective ownership titles?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The land acquired by the Administering Authority was acquired by reason of the Trusteeship Agreement and was land which was owned by the Japanese or controlled by the Japanese at the time the United States assumed the Trusteeship. That land previously was acquired, I would feel safe in saying, both from private owners and from common clan-type ownership, depending on the area in which the land was located.

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that was acquired by the Japanese. I trust that that answers the question.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): Last year, in reply to a question put to him by the representative of Belgium with regard to land claims of a Belgian national who had for many years been a resident of the Pacific Islands, the special representative for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands stated that the question had not as yet been settled but that it would probably be settled in the near future. The number of staff dealing with land claims having been increased, I should like to know from the special representative whether the question of Mr. Carlos Etscheit has already been settled or whether it is still under study.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I dislike having to say that the claim in question is still under study. Just prior to leaving Guam about three weeks ago, I talked with the Etscheits in person concerning their claim. Our land title officer, the director of our land administrative programme, has been doing work just recently on that claim, and I indicated to the Etscheits that within the next three months they could expect to know the Administering Authority's position with respect to their claim. Mrs. Etscheit was quite pleased with that knowledge. Whether she will be pleased with the attitude that is adopted, I do not know.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): On page 42 of the report, it is stated that the only tax collected is a head or capitation tax, that there is no income tax in the Trust Territory. It would seem, however, that an income tax would be desirable, and I should like to know whether the Administering Authority intends to establish an income tax system or simply to keep the capitation tax.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The Administering Authority has thought about an income tax and has discussed it with various members of the staff and with the various district administrators. Considering the income based on the low wage rates now in effect in Micronesia, and applying

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against that information the possible cost of operating, managing, administering an income tax programme, as well as taking into consideration the clan-type operation which is effective in quite a few of our islands, where there is no individual income but rather clan-type income, it has been decided that at this time it certainly would not be practical to institute an income tax programme. It is my personal opinion that it will be a number of years before such a programme would be desirable.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium)(interpretation from French): I can understand that for the majority of tax payers at the present time it is better to stick to the capitation tax, but for the few tradesmen, for instance, who are engaged in trade in the Territory, I wonder whether it would not be possible to impose an income tax. I see that there is no cattle tax, and I should like to ask the special representative whether there is any drawback to the establishment of a cattle tax. If cattle is endowed only with a social value, then I can quite understand that it should not be taxable, for this would be tantamount to a tax on capital, which would not be logical. But if cattle has economic as well as social value, and if it provides the cattle-owner with certain economic resources and earnings, then I think that in such an instance it might be possible to contemplate the establishment of a cattle tax.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The representative of Belgium has set forth, I think quite clearly, the need for taxes. Our taxing system is not limited to the capitation tax. To answer directly as to the cattle tax, we do have in Saipan a registration fee. We do not have a cattle tax. Owners of cattle, in the main, consist of an individual owning one or two cows. There are no cattle ranches, to the best of my knowledge, owned by Micronesians. I would like at this time, by way of information, to indicate that we do have in the different districts numerous other taxes, such as a beer tax, a soft drink tax, a tobacco tax, a gasoline tax, a head tax, a movie tax, business licence fees, drivers' licence fees, etc. They also have listed the marriage certificates and the death certificates. We do have and are slowly developing a tax system which will be broad at the base but which will not be sharp enough, at any one point, to seriously injure people who originally have never had to contend with taxes. We are making progress. The local councils and the local congresses recommend certain forms of taxes each year. Just recently a cigarette tax was added, I believe in the Marshalls district, of two cents per pack which was used to defray teachers' salaries. In another district a one mill per pound tax on copra has just recently been levied. This also went to pay local expenses, such as the elementary school teachers' salary.

Thought is being given to a type of tax to apply against the commercial houses in the Trust Territory. I believe they are the one outlet at the present time not subject to taxes consonant with their ability to pay.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium) (interpretation from French): I think that these are for the most part indirect taxes and I think that it might be a good thing to establish direct taxes as well. After all, the purpose of taxes is not only to fill the coffers of a Government so as to meet expenditures. The purpose of taxation is also to provide a contribution by taxpayers to secure services rendered by the State or by the Government. I think therefore that the population of these islands, as well as of any other country, should be accustomed to pay a certain contribution to the

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Government, however small it might be, in payment for the social and political services rendered by the Government for the benefit of the community or population as a whole.

On page 43 of the annual report we read that a person can pay the tax collected by local Governments through providing his labour. But we do not know exactly where or how this practice is carried out. I should like to know whether the local Government has a record of the payments made, by way of labour, by those who are not in a position to pay their taxes.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Not very often, but occasionally, the municipalities collect taxes by reason of assigning labour to local roads or local projects to individuals who have not been able to pay their minimum tax which is levied, and the capitation tax in particular. The municipalities would have records of taxes collected and they would have records which would encompass labour served as taxes.

I should like to mention at this time that through the copra processing tax, through the trochus tax, there is a contribution to the cost of government. The phosphate processing tax is another tax in which the local inhabitants do contribute to the cost of government. There is some participation there.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium)(interpretation from French): I do not wish to criticize the system of payment through labour since, in the light of my own experience, I have found that in many cases such payments in labour are indeed necessary. But obviously there should be a trend towards the elimination of such labour payments as much as possible and these payments should be replaced by payments in cash. I should like to know what are the views of the Administering Authority on this subject.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I agree with the representative of Belgium on this point. As the High Commissioner, I have no desire to promulgate rules and regulations which will result in additional labour being performed in lieu of taxes. For one reason, to those of us around this table

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representative)

our taxes now might seem quite small. We do not desire to overburden these people with taxes which they would be unable to pay, thus resulting in a system of enforcement which would be quite unpleasant to all concerned.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): My first question relates to the phosphate industry in Angaur. With the depletion of the phosphate deposits in Angaur the efforts, according to the statement of the special representative, are directed towards backfilling. What I wish to know, in the first place, is the cost incurred, and in the second place, does the Administration expect the backfilled land to be useful for agriculture?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The cost of backfilling is borne by the Phosphate Mining Company. There is no expense to the Trust Territory Government for such backfilling. The land which is being backfilled will be suitable for agriculture within, I am told by agricultural experts, one year. They may start planning immediately after the backfilling and, given one year for the land to settle and the roots to take hold, the land can successfully be farmed thereafter.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I was aware of the fact that the company was responsible for the backfilling, but what I wanted to know is whether the special representative is familiar with the cost incurred. Does the company tell the Administration about that cost, or does the special representative have no knowledge of it?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I do not have knowledge of the cost of backfilling. It must be rather expensive because in recent negotiations the Phosphate Mining Company objected strenuously to the terms we were imposing upon them for backfilling, but what the costs are I do not know.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): My second question relates to overpopulation. I think that this question was asked yesterday by the representative of China. At the present time, the Administration does not seem to be very worried about this problem. With the present rate of population increase, is there any ground for anxiety about the future? If so, in which districts aside from the Marshalls is this problem of overpopulation expected to arise?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): There is ground for anxiety with respect to the future. At the present time, overpopulation is a particular problem in the Ponape district, particularly in the islands of Kapingamarangi and Pingelap. However, in Ponape, we are fortunate in having a large high island, Metalanim. This year, we started a homesteading programme on Metalanim and as of two months ago we had successfully moved sixty families from Kapingamarangi and Pingelap to Metalanim, where they are now homesteading. This migration was purely voluntary and was worked out with the chiefs and the elders of each of the islands of Kapingamarangi and Pingelap, and they are looking forward to sending additional families at the rate of about fifteen per month until we have accepted approximately 150 families on Metalanim, which is expected to be sufficient to release the pressures on Pingelap and Kapingamarangi. In the Northern Marianas, we have land to spare. In Palau, in the large island of Babelthuap, we have land to spare. We do not have too much land to spare in the Marshalls. However, as time goes on, I believe that, with the emphasis now being placed on subsistence agriculture and with the occasional movement of families from the smaller islands to the larger islands, the Trust Territory will be able to meet population pressures rather satisfactorily. It will be a long time in the future before we do have a major problem which can be said to cover the entire Trust Territory.

When I use the word "homesteading", I do not know whether the representatives understand what I mean, namely, how we use that term and what we do with it. We take a large tract of land, one or two thousand acres, and divide it into family-size plots of two, four or five acres, depending on the area and the productivity of the land. We make certain that this large tract of land has

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access to the ocean, good water available and is cultivable. The families moving in are then assigned a portion of the large plot and immediately can start fishing. In many instances, coconut trees are on the land and they start producing copra which they sell to get cash with which they can buy their trade goods. They have available water and material for the building of their houses and needed facilities. It makes a very interesting programme in the Trust Territory. We now are receiving requests from people for homesteads who really do not need homesteads. They just want to obtain other land where they think the grass is a little greener. In total, however, the programme is working out quite well.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): The special representative has told us about what the Administration has done in regard to certain claims, namely, the yen or claims on loss of property or land. But he has not told us anything about postal savings and bonds of Japan. What happened to that?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The postal savings claims and the Japanese bonds owned by Micronesians for which they have not received any return as yet have been the subject of discussions recently started between the State Department and the Japanese Government. It is my sincere hope that those discussions will lead to an understanding which will permit us in the Trust Territory to effect the settlement of those claims. At the present time, I am sorry to say that I can give no more definite answer than that the State Department now is discussing the problem. We are hopeful that, in the near future, we can settle the claims.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I should like to ask the special representative about the percentage of land owned or claimed by the religious missions in each of the districts.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I am sorry but I do not have specific figures in mind with respect to land owned or claimed by the missions in the various districts. Thinking back over the past year in my visits to the districts, I cannot recall any discussions which would indicate dissatisfaction on the part of the missionaries or that they believe they have claims. In the Marshalls, we have one request at the present time from the Catholic Mission located at Jaluit for a lease for eight-tenths of an acre of additional land and for a lease for approximately two acres of land, I believe it is, that they now occupy which was never formally leased to them. In total, the missionary societies within the Trust Territory control very little land as contrasted with the total amount of land in the Trust Territory. We have no outstanding claims that I know of. I have just been given a note that in Saipan the Catholic Church owns about ten acres. I believe that might be one of the larger plots of land owned by any given mission.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): On page 40 of the annual report there is a statement of comparison of revenues and expenditures for the fiscal years 1953, 1954, and 1955. I noticed that in 1954 the total net obligations amounted to \$5,931,392. In the statement he made to the Trusteeship Council, the special representative said that \$700,000 had been made available for rehabilitation. Is that sum included in the figure which I have just quoted of the total net obligations, or is it a separate item?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The figure of \$5,931,392 given for the total net obligations in 1954 does not include the \$700,000 for construction. The fiscal year of 1955, which we are now in, will include the \$700,000 since that is the first year we have received that amount.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): Does that mean that the figure of \$6,357,500 includes that sum of \$700,000?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): It does not; it has to do with administration and operations.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): First of all, I wish to refer to a different aspect of the question touched upon by the representative of Syria, namely, the question of the export of phosphates. The special representative has told us that the exploitation of phosphates has ceased. What have been the repercussions of this on the economy of the country? I should also like to know what was the psychological effect on the inhabitants of the Territory, since the phosphate exports amounted to more than \$2 million in previous years.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I should like to correct the impression created by the reference to \$2 million. That refers to the value of the phosphate delivered in Japan, and those dollars did not enter the Angaur economy. The Angaurese economy was affected only by the payments received for the rental of land and for crop damages. It has been affected by the growth of the Angaur Mining Trust Fund and by other payments. It was affected by the labour performed for the Phosphate Mining Company. Therefore, the \$2 million does not represent an economic value figure to the Angaurese.

Phosphate mining ceased in Angaur at about the end of April. I was there in May, and I saw numerous piles of phosphate which was drying and awaiting shipment. The shipment of the phosphate will be completed in July and August. After that time there will be no activity with respect to the phosphate on the island of Angaur. Approximately 475 Angaurese will be affected by the loss of income to their island. There will be adequate land in Angaur for agricultural requirements. The Angaurese will continue to receive annual payments from the Trust Fund, and I do not expect there will be any tremendous impact on the local economy. The Phosphate Mining Company maintained a working force of approximately 350 to 400 Japanese. They did not use Angaurese labour to any great extent. Consequently, the pulling away of the Angaur Phosphate Mining Company at this time will not have a tremendous effect upon the economy of the Angaurese. It will lessen the income, but I do not think it will do this in a distinct manner.

Parenthetically, I should like to explain that some of the Angaurese are looking forward to moving to Babelthuap Island, where we also have a homesteading programme. I believe that if some of the Angaurese go to Babelthuap the economic pressures will be lessened in direct proportion to their number.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti)(interpretation from French): On page 60 of the annual report it is said that in addition to the phosphate deposits there is manganese and bauxite. Now that there is no longer any phosphate, I should like to know whether it is intended now to mine bauxite and manganese, as was previously done by the Japanese.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Recently we have had several inquiries concerning the bauxite to be found on Babelthuap. During the Japanese occupation bauxite was mined on Babelthuap. In fact, at the present time there is a small stockpile of bauxite on Babelthuap, and this bauxite was left there by the Japanese. I am told by mining and geological experts that the bauxite on Babelthuap is of such low quality that it is extremely doubtful whether under present world conditions it is commercially feasible to mine that bauxite. In fact, we have been unable to find anyone willing to buy the stockpiled bauxite because of its poor quality.

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Manganese has not been the subject of any discussions during the past year. I do not know the value of the manganese. I have not initiated any action looking towards the development of manganese mining as a resource potential for the Trust Territory.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): My third question is the following: the main agricultural products of the Territory are cocoa, bananas and others. Would the quality of the land permit the cultivation of other crops, such as maize, sorghum, and others? We would like to know the results of the studies which have been undertaken since 1950 related to the possibilities of the land.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The studies have been pursued. Our agriculturists are constantly experimenting. The Pacific Island Central School has an experimental plot. Various legumes have been tried along with other plants, though not too successfully. Maize is not a product which can be raised in the islands in any commercial quantities -- at least our agriculturists so tell us. The local crops -- mangoes, yams, taro, breadfruit -- seem to be the best possible products to develop, from an agricultural standpoint. Experimentation in agricultural products is a slow process. For example, we are now conducting an experiment in Ponape with pineapples. It does not seem at this stage that it will be very successful. We do not know. It is mostly a case of studying soil and climate conditions and then planting the crops involved.

In direct answer, at this time we know of no agricultural products in addition to those mentioned yesterday and today which might produce commercial crops for the Trust Territory.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): What are the results of the studies which have been undertaken since 1950?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): In the main, those studies have been negative. One result of the studies has been an increase of our pork programme -- swine growing -- within the islands. There has been a betterment of the cattle strains as well as the swine strains in the islands, a betterment of the duck and chicken strain within the islands, a betterment of the methods of raising certain local crops, such as taro, an expanding of our cacao plantations and efforts in this connexion. There has been a fairly sizable experiment in vanilla. There has been a decision not to experiment too actively at this time with pepper or coffee. I think those are the highlights of the results of the studies.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): Chapter 5, fisheries, page 58 of the report, states that means of developing a fishing industry on a commercial basis are under study. How far has the Administration advanced in studying this question?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): We have worked with officials of the Fish and Wild Life Service who have conducted various experiments in the waters of Micronesia. It appears to us that certain types of commercial fishing would be feasible. We are now attempting to interest commercial fishing firms in coming into Micronesia. I am hopeful that by this time next year I may be able to report that we do have commercial fishing in practice in the Trust Territory.

Mr. SERAPHIN (Haiti) (interpretation from French): This is my last question. It is stated that the administrative expenditures this year, as last year, exceeded the income of the Administration and that it was necessary to fill the gap. We should like to know what is meant by administrative costs? We know that the Administration depends in part on the Interior Department. Are some officials paid from the budget of the Territory? Could not the Administering Authority itself assume the cost of paying the officials?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): That is a very interesting question. Administrative costs in the Trust Territory mean those costs directly connected with the administration and operation of the area. They do not include

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the salaries or expenses of any officials of the United States Government other than those of us who are directly connected with and responsible for the administration of the Trust Territory. Our budget request of Congress for the money which is necessary to fill the gap between local revenue and expenditure clears through the Department of Interior for review by the Secretary and his staff. If the Department of Interior defrayed any of the expenses of the Trust Territory, it could only acquire that money from the same source from which we in the Trust Territory acquire the money, namely the Congress of the United States. Therefore, our request is a self-contained request and is not supported by funds received other than directly from the Congress of the United States or local revenues.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): We see on page 42 of the report the following statement: "There is no record of the number of persons paying taxes." That may be a very attractive state of affairs for some, but could the special representative explain why it is not possible to maintain a record of persons who pay taxes? Are there any practical difficulties in the way of maintaining such a register?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Taxes are paid mainly through the local trading companies. Capitation taxes are collected by the municipalities in which the individuals live. The Trust Territory, as was pointed out a while ago, does not have an income tax structure which would require the Administering Authority to maintain a register of tax-payers for tax collection purposes. Capitation taxes are paid locally; the others come as a result of the purchase or sale of goods.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I presume that the municipalities which actually collect the taxes maintain their own registers.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): That is correct. There is a tax collector in practically every municipality, whose responsibility it is to maintain the list of tax-payers and non-tax-payers and to act accordingly.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): If I may, I should like to revert to a question asked by the representative of Syria concerning phosphates. I should like to put another question on a different aspect. We see on page 60 of the report that the phosphate mining agreement contains "provisions for the protection of water resources of the island ... and back-filling and protection of land for future use". The special representative explained the process of back-filling. I should like to know whether there is any kind of governmental supervision over this back-filling of these areas from which phosphates have been mined, where the soil comes from, and also what the base of the island is. Is it a coral base? Can it readily absorb other soil which can settle there?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The Government maintains on Angaur an American who has the responsibility of the supervising of the operation of the contract between the Government and the Phosphate Mining Company. Among other responsibilities, this man is charged with seeing that the Phosphate Mining Company does not remove phosphate below a certain level and that, once the phosphate is removed, the area is "back-filled" and covered with topsoil. By means of this kind of inspection and supervision we have been able to maintain adequate protection against spoilage of the water supply on the island through seepage, a condition which would occur if the mining operations were to go too deep.

The island, I understand, is coral on top of a mountainous range under the ocean. From the beginning of the contract, regular inspections have been made by a geologist and a water conservation engineer, expert in the field, and they have given the specifications with regard to depth mining which might occur, and the need for and type of back-filling to ensue after the phosphate has been removed.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I should like to know from the special representative whether any of the areas which have already been back-filled have so far started producing. Have they become cultivable, and is that proving to be a success?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): To every aspect of the question the answer is yes; the land is cultivable. Taro is being grown and we have reason to believe that there will be no failures based on recent history.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): Does this soil that is used to back-fill these areas come from a great distance, or is it from neighbouring islands?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The soil comes from the Island of Angaur. It might be well to explain here that Angaur is not a high island. It does have several elevated areas -- bluffs, we call them. When mining operations begin in a new area, in the first place, the topsoil is removed
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carefully and stock-piled. Then the phosphate is taken out. When it is time to back-fill, the Mining Company will remove from one of these bluffs -- none is arable or phosphate-producing -- soil which contains a poor grade of phosphate and use it for the back-filling. That area is then graded and the topsoil replaced which was set aside at the beginning. Consequently, our land back-filling programme is made possible by using the land on other islands which is not arable and replacing the topsoil which was originally removed. There is no soil hauled into Angaur.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): Are any of the phosphate deposits kept back for use on the island itself -- for example, for the rehabilitation of the areas from which these phosphates have been taken away? If one wanted to make them cultivable again, are some of these phosphate deposits set aside for use in these back-filled areas?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I do not think so. The entire Island of Angaur is covered with phosphate of differing degrees of value. I raised that question with our representative when last on Angaur, and he rather smiled as he stated that there was enough phosphate anywhere to serve as an agricultural phosphate on the island. Therefore, we do not have the problem of needing to conserve phosphate for our own use.

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

Mr. JAIPAL (India): In his opening statement, the special representative referred to the "Jaluit Project" (T/PV.615, page 37). He said that the main object of the project was to improve the subsistence and cash crops most suited to the Marshallese soil and climate. I should like to ask the special representative whether similar projects are being considered for other groups of islands, such as the Marianas and the Caroline Islands, which are said to be of volcanic origin, as opposed to the Marshall group, which is largely coral.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): In addition to the Jaluit Project, we have a project in Rota, concerned primarily with developing vegetables to be sold in the Guam market. Rota has land which, because of the nature of the soil and the elevation, permits the growth of tomatoes, bell peppers, cabbage, radishes, lettuce, watermelons and other crops which are in great demand in Guam. We have a full-fledged agricultural development project on Rota. In each of our Districts, we have an agricultural station which engages in developing plants for distribution to Micronesians in that District. In each agricultural station, the plants developed are those which are thought to be most successful in the District. Saipan has an agricultural development station engaged in the improvement and growth of vegetables in Saipan for shipment to the Guam market. At Matalanim in Ponape, we have the large copra plantation, which also engages in growing plants for distribution to the Ponapeans. In the Palaus, we have our cacao plantation, which also grows plants for distribution to the Micronesians. In each District, we also have cattle, hogs, chickens and ducks which are distributed, sold

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or made available -- as the case may be -- to Micronesians for the improvement of the animal strain, in order to increase the meat and hence the protein production of Micronesia. The Jaluit Project is our most recent one, and it is just getting under way.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I should now like to ask a supplementary question in this respect. I presume that by "agricultural extension work", the special representative means the process of bringing to the islanders the results of the experiments carried out in these various pilot projects. Could the special representative tell us how the people are reacting to these new experiments? Are they showing any eagerness to adopt the new crops, and so forth? Will these innovations bring any substantial change in their dietary habits?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I do not think that any change in dietary habits will be involved on a large scale. In Rota and Saipan, there will be the biggest impact on dietary habits because of the bringing in of vegetables not formerly used in those districts. In the Carolines and the Marshalls, the majority of our agricultural work at the Centre, and the extension work from the Centre to the people, is composed of bettering strains of existing foods. In those areas we are not changing dietary habits; we are attempting to make possible better crops from existing soils.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): On page 156 of the report there is a rather brief statement to the effect that there are no co-operatives, in the accepted sense, organized in the Trust Territory. I think the representative of Australia asked a question arising out of that statement, but the special representative's reply was largely confined to co-operation in the field of trading companies. I should like to ask him whether, in the field of agriculture, any experiments in co-operation have been tried out.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): There is one small experiment now taking place in Rota, where a man has been selected by the Rotanese to accept their vegetables, grade them, make certain they are properly packaged for delivery to the Guam market. This is a co-operative endeavour. To the best of my knowledge, it is the only one, and at this time it is of necessity a small effort. Except for the experiment at Rota, I know of no co-operative actions amongst the farmers in Micronesia.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I was thinking of co-operative farming rather than co-operative marketing. Does the special representative think that the structure of the society of these islanders lends itself to co-operative farming in these new homesteads that the Administration is trying to establish?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Inherent in the normal life of the Micronesian, I think, is a co-operative effort which normally goes beyond co-operative efforts as evidenced in other societies. The entire family, the

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entire clan, participates in the agricultural effort. There is, however, no formal co-operative organization in the sense in which we think of the term "co-operative".

With respect to the homesteading programmes, the representative of India has touched upon something which we hope we can cause to grow, because in these homestead areas, where people are coming from outlying islands and living together, they are able to produce better and to handle their products better in a co-operative sense. I think we shall be giving more time and thought to efforts in the direction of co-operative measures in the future than we have in the past.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I should now like to ask a few questions about the budget, in relation to the expenditure side. On page 139 of the report, it is stated that the estimated expenditure for 1955, under "General Administration" alone, is about \$1,600,000. This is more than the total revenue of the Territory. Could the special representative let us know the proportion of this expenditure on general administration that represents expenditure on non-indigenous employees alone, or is that information not readily available?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The information requested is not readily available. I believe, however, that I can break down that figure of \$1,600,000 into something more understandable than just "General Administration". In that figure is included the cost of all of our petroleum oil and lubricants for the entire Trust Territory, and that covers planes, ships, power plants, and so forth. There is also included in that figure approximately \$400,000 for stevedoring, which is paid to Micronesians for the loading and unloading of ships. There is also included in that figure the sum of approximately \$200,000 -- I state that figure subject to correction, and I will check it this evening -- for recruitment, covering recruitment costs of our personnel. Subtracting these various items that I have mentioned, I believe we would find that the balance for administrative work in the Trust Territory

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would come closer to \$800,000. In direct response to the question, I would say that it is my opinion that approximately \$700,000 in toto, including the stevedoring, would be spent on the Micronesians.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): Further down in that same table, we find the figure of \$984,000 as the estimated expenditure for 1955 on the item "operation and maintenance". Could the special representative elucidate the nature of this expenditure as well as the nature of the expenditure on "transportation services", which comes to \$1,600,000?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The operation and maintenance item consists essentially of three major types of expenses. One is the operation of our radio facilities; the largest item would be the maintaining of our physical facilities, such as repairs to buildings, and normal running expenses, as well as general communication between the districts. The transportation services item consists of two major headings of expenditure. One is the surface transportation. The shipping costs us approximately \$1,300,000 a year and our air services costs us approximately \$350,000 a year.

Social Advancement

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium)(interpretation from French): On page 67 of the annual report it is stated that the Territory Code expressly exempts practitioners of native traditional healing arts, which are usually connected with religious practices, from its licensing restrictions on medical personnel. Is there not some danger that these traditional healers may take advantage of the credulity of the indigenous inhabitants?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I would have to say that there is some danger that it might happen. However, in fact there are so very few of the type of individuals discussed, those who practise healing by reason of peculiar professed abilities, that we do not have a problem in truth. Our Micronesians are becoming quite conscious of the values of modern medicine and are looking more and more to the medical practitioners who are Micronesians and are pulling away from the local medicine man, as he might be called. Therefore, we really have very little of any problem and it is diminishing rather than growing.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium)(interpretation from French): I am happy to learn that there are very few of these native traditional healers and that therefore the danger does not seem to be a very considerable one. It seems to us, however, that if it was necessary to condone these practices, it might be better at least not to have legislative texts bear on these practices. It might be

better simply to have a sort of tacit tolerance for such practices. The annual report, in dealing with the social structures of various islands, states on page 64 that there are no less than nine social classes which are very strictly differentiated in Yap.

I should like to know the nature of the links between the various classes which must bind these classes together. Secondly, I should like to know whether this does not entail a dependence of some classes on others. Moreover, I would like to know whether the Administering Authority encourages the co-existence of these various social classes.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Firstly, we do not encourage the co-existence of the various classes. The island of Yap, of all the islands and districts in the Trust Territory, does have a greater class discrimination, if I might use that word or, I should say, distinction, than any of the other districts. In general it has to do with the hierarchy of titles within Yap. They have numerous types of chiefs. They have by comparison very few individuals without some title. There is constantly going on in Yap a trying for the next rung on the ladder, as it were, on the part of the people of Yap. It has produced a healthy end result in their social structure, even though it is a peculiar one to try to understand.

The Yapese people are quite independent by nature. They are quite self-contained in so far as their island is concerned. They need and ask for the least amount of help of any district in the Trust Territory. One can notice the difference in classes in attending meetings. Men are seated by reason of their title or their class. Watching the everyday life of the Yapese I cannot distinguish between classes as they go up and down the streets about their daily work. But in their social meetings and gatherings there is a certain protocol carried on with respect to the different classes. I think that in time it will diminish. We are not encouraging it, but we are not aggressively trying to break it down. We are respecting the Yapese desire to maintain their way of life.

Mr. SCHEYVEN (Belgium)(interpretation from French): If I understood correctly, these classes only have a given role and they do not hold other classes in subordination. There is no dependence between the various classes and therefore it seems to me that there is no special need to eliminate these classes. There are no exactions from one class to another, but this is only the sort of thing which happens in more civilized countries where, for instance, persons endeavour to move up the social ladder by belonging to various social clubs. I am very grateful to the special representative for his replies.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): It appears from the report that an over-all reduction in expenditure on medical and health services has taken place in the Territory. It would be interesting to know how this reduction has been achieved and whether there has been any cut back in medical services or in plans for development of these services, particularly in regard to facilities for the treatment of tuberculosis.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The question is simple. The answer will have to be a little lengthy. We have effected a reduction in the cost of health services by reason of several actions. An analysis of the reduced cost will reflect that approximately \$100,000 was saved in supplies and materials purchased. This was brought about by reason of the fact that last year, the year in question, we had made available to us from the Defense Department of the United States considerable supplies on a non-reimbursable basis. This was surplus property. In addition, in the health programme we have successfully reduced the number of Stateside dentists from four to one, I think, during this period, and they cost us in the neighbourhood of \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year each. Therefore, when we reduced the number by three, we effected a considerable saving. We have been able to do this by reason of the fact that Micronesian dental practitioners have successfully completed their schooling in Suva and are now in the districts performing most of the dental work required. They refer to our Stateside dentist the complicated cases.

Other savings in the medical programme resulted from the fact that our leper colony was reduced from a number in the neighbourhood of 100 to approximately twenty-five. Therefore, these reductions in expense result from physical happenings and are not the result of less care. In my opinion, they have resulted in greater care. We now have better supplies, more dentists in the field and fewer lepers to care for.

In education, again, part of the savings resulted from the acquisition of surplus property; from the fact that we have reduced some -- not so many -- of the Stateside teachers; and from the fact that there is a mistake in the figures shown in the books. The amount for Saipan is indicated as \$80,000.

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representative)

In effect, the amount should be about \$40,000 more, which would not reflect such a terrific reduction in expense as is shown. Our elementary school teachers are now all paid by the municipalities. I am pleased to state that, based on a questionnaire sent out just before leaving Guam, all elementary school teachers are paid and paid in full. We have no one, as we did last year, who has back wages coming to him.

The reliance on Micronesians, the reduction in our supply account and the resultant savings in Stateside salaries have all tended to produce a reduced amount in education. I think that our educational expenditures in this next year will be greater than in the past year. We are adding some scholarships to those we have previously given and I think that we will show a slight increase in the coming year.

The handling of tuberculosis has shown a decided improvement. You will recall that last year comment was made concerning a programme of building rest houses at the edges of our villages where tuberculosis patients were kept isolated, particularly at night. This year, again by reason of having more medical practitioners being graduated from Suva and in the field now in the outer islands, we have been able to locate tuberculosis cases earlier and give them treatment. By the use of the drugs which are quite effective in tuberculosis cases, the use of additional practitioners, the increasing use of rest homes and the enlargement of tuberculosis wards in the hospitals, we are providing better care for our tuberculosis patients than before.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): I remember that when I was in the Territory as a member of the Visiting Mission the attention of the Administering Authority was drawn to the necessity of giving more medical care to the outlying islands. I have seen no reference to that in the report so far. I wonder whether the special representative could tell me what progress has been made and what amount has been allotted for that purpose.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Two things stand out in my mind as being beneficial to the health of the Micronesians in the outlying islands. One is the return of a sizable number of medical practitioners who have been placed in large measure in the outer islands. The second is that the shipping programme, which was discussed the other day, has resulted in more regular and more frequent contact with the outer islands. In the past, there were islands which were not called upon for four, five or six months. Today, and for the past six or seven months, all the populated islands on the average have been called upon at least once each three months. When a field trip goes out on a ship, there is always one person aboard who is interested in the health of the islanders and who is capable of doing something for them. Therefore, more constant and more frequent contact and more medical practitioners are the only two items I can think of at this time.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): While speaking of the displaced Bikini people in the island of Kili, the special representative said:

"Their social and political problems are receiving the closest attention of Marshallese Kili Project Manager."

The special representative continued:

"His efforts are being rewarded by a constant lessening of their problems and the gradual emergence of a truly integrated community."

Can the special representative tell us what are the problems which have been solved and what are the hardships which have been alleviated. Could he also tell us what are the other problems which continue to face the resettled Bikini people?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The people of Bikini who were moved to Kili found themselves in a strange island very different from that which they had left and on which they had lived their lives before the move. Bikini is a low atoll-type of island with a lagoon. There was adequate fishing on Bikini and easy access to the water. They had coconut and coral atoll-type foods. On the other hand, Kili is a high island -- several hundred feet high -- and it is an island in the strict sense of the word. There is no lagoon and it is difficult for the people to get out to catch the fish. It was necessary for them to plant taro and other crops which they were used to eating to supplement the breadfruit and coconut which grows on Kili. Our Project Manager has been engaged in developing their interest in taro, tapioca and other foods and in getting them to grow such crops. He has also been engaged in helping them to raise more chickens and swine in order to supplement their diet.

The Project Manager has also helped to resolve the problems which came about as a result of the move, such as problems of administration and their efforts to learn a new life in a new island.

Recently we completed two projects which further alleviated their situation. In Jaluit, 30 miles from Kili, a radio sending and receiving station was constructed, as well as a radio station at Kili. The Kilians can now talk to Jaluit and in turn Jaluit can talk to Majuro, the district centre.

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By means of a relay system, the Kilians can now talk directly with the district centre. Approval has also been given for the building of a boat by the Reimer Boat Construction Company in the Marshall Islands. I understand that the boat is now being built, though I have not seen it, and when it is delivered to the Kilians it will permit them to leave Kili by boat for Jaluit where, in connexion with the Jaluit project, we have constructed eight cookhouses with attendant facilities. We propose to maintain on Jaluit, by rotation, eight families who will participate in the raising of food which can be grown on Jaluit, but not on Kili. The delivery of the boat will also permit the Kilians to begin marketing copra which they can produce in Kili, since they will then be able to take it by boat to Jaluit, where it will be picked up by a larger boat.

The past year has seen considerable effort devoted to the bettering of the plight of the people on Kili. They are now beginning to accept and, after hearing their comments, I believe they are beginning to like their life on Kili as compared to their life on Bikini several years ago.

Mr. RIFAI (Syria): Perhaps inadvertently, the special representative did not reply to the second part of my question. I asked whether the Bikini people now settled on Kili continue to have certain problems.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): They will continue to have certain problems until we have been able to get this boat-building operation successfully completed. They will then be able to sell copra and get the money they require to buy trade goods. Their current problem is in the acquisition of trade goods, since they lack money.

Sir Alan BURNS (United Kingdom): I have one question on social development. Reference is made on page 66 of the annual report to traditional services performed for chiefs. Can the special representative tell us whether these services are very difficult and troublesome and whether they are being generally performed?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I have had no indications that the services are onerous or difficult, and I do not believe that they present any great problem to the people involved. In Ponape, there is a custom which we would refer to as "feasting". Occasionally the chief will declare a feast and all the people must provide the food, whether or not they wish to give a banquet. These feasts are rather like social gatherings and they play an important part in the life of the people. At the present time we are not receiving any complaints, nor have we had any indications of a desire for a change.

Mr. S.S. LIU (China): We were interested to hear that great progress has been made towards the diminution of tuberculosis. The special representative was also good enough to tell us about the decline of leprosy in the Trust Territory. I wonder whether similar progress has been made in the other illnesses which are prevalent, such as parasitic disease of the gastro-intestinal tract, to which the special representative made reference in his opening statement.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): During the past year we have had no epidemics. We have had no major illnesses in any given area which could be attributed to any single cause. Our medical staff assures me that the health of the Micronesians has improved and that there have been fewer cases of illnesses than in the past. I feel well pleased with the outlook in Micronesia. We have no malaria, though it is true that tuberculosis and gastro-intestinal enteric disease and so on are a major problem. Filariasis and elephantiasis are slowly leaving us and diminishing each year. The outlook is good.

Mr. S.S. LIU (China): I should like to elicit some information with regard to the nutrition of the inhabitants of the Trust Territory. On page 82 of the annual report there is a statement that research work on the quality of non-animal proteins available in the Trust Territory is being carried out, and that it is being completed and should offer valuable guidance for nutritional programmes. Perhaps it is too detailed a subject, but could the special representative tell us whether that work has now been completed, and also what are the results of the study?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I am unable to answer that question in any detail. I know that our study is continuing from the standpoint of nutrition. I have not seen the results of the study to date.

The doctors advise me that those islanders who supplement their vegetable diet with fish in reasonable amounts have a well-rounded diet. There is some worry about those Micronesians who, by reason of taking their time to process the coconut into copra, do not take time to fish, and use the money from the copra to buy foods not of a protein nature. Those people might be working themselves into a protein deficiency area. That is the field in which they are conducting research at the present time.

I know of no instances of malnutrition other than the cases of a few infants, in whose cases the malnutrition was traced to a body cause rather than to a food cause.

Mr. S. S. LIU (China): I trust that the results of this study will be contained in the next annual report.

In chapter 10, alcohol and spirits, page 83 of the report, it is stated that the manufacture by individuals for personal use -- that is the manufacture of alcohol and spirits -- in accordance with indigenous tradition is permitted subject to community control. What does that mean? What type of control is exercised over this manufacture?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Our Micronesians have, as have men the world over, long ago discovered how to make alcoholic beverages out of most anything at hand. They make a drink from coconuts which, I am told, is quite potent. I have tasted it, but I could never drink it.

The local customs can best be explained by a recent incident. In the Marshalls, we received from the Marshallese Congress a petition to permit them to put into effect local option so that in each municipality where this particular drink is made, the people could vote on whether or not they wanted to permit the manufacture of the local liquor.

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representative)

We gave them local option. With reference to the part women play in Micronesian life, I can only state that the women helped influence the men, and to the best of my knowledge every place voting so far has voted dry. They are ceasing the manufacture of the local liquor, which is quite potent. From the Administering Authority's standpoint, we have not regulated against the manufacture of local alcoholic beverages. We have left it to the local custom and inhabitants.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): Since we are on the question of intoxicants and beverages, as a matter of interest I should like to ask the special representative whether in Micronesia the inhabitants make this drink which in Polynesia is known as K'ava, and is made from the root of the paper mulberry.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): In only one district have I found a drink made locally which will compare with K'ava, and that is in the Palau district. It is not as refined a drink as K'ava. They forget to take some of the root out; it is almost impossible to drink.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): When the special representative spoke earlier about the homesteading projects, which, incidentally, my delegation found extremely useful, he mentioned the settlements taking place in areas where there were good water supplies. I wonder whether he implied by that that the water was supplied by community or administration endeavour, or did he mean just where there were good streams or rainfall catchment areas?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I meant the latter, where there are good streams or good potential catchment areas to provide water for the population.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): On page 73 of the annual report, speaking of working conditions in the Trust Territory, it is stated that employees receive compensation for any injuries which they receive while on the job. I should like to ask the special representative whether there is in force workmen's compensation legislation throughout the Territory, or does this refer to a practice which is followed by the various employing firms?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): There is no workmen's compensation law within the Trust Territory. The reference is solely to the practice of the local firms and that of the Trust Territory Government. We, as the largest employer within the Trust Territory, have set the example, which is being followed by others.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): The reply of the special representative leads me to my next question, which again relates to working conditions. On page 74 of the annual report, it is stated that the only restriction on the right to strike in the Territory is the prohibition against striking against the Government. I should like to know how many workers or what percentage of workers are employed by the Government.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): As I recall the figures, the Government employs approximately 1,400 or 1,500 Micronesians. The local trading, shipping and other companies in the Trust Territory might hire or employ as many as 700 Micronesians. We, therefore, would be the major employer by at least two to one.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): On page 73 of the annual report it is stated that no measures were taken to extend the application of the conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organisation to the Trust Territory because of their limited applicability. I would ask the special representative whether one is to imply from this that there are no ILO conventions which have been applied to the Trust Territory, or does this mean that there have been no further conventions which have been applied in the year under review?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): This means that there is no application of the conventions of the International Labour Organisation in the Trust Territory.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): On pages 81 and 82 of the annual report there are references to training programmes for sanitation personnel. Mention is made of a sanitation school opened at Truk to train prospective sanitarians for public health service. Page 82 speaks of plans being made in co-operation with the Territory of Hawaii Board of Health to give training, through observation and practical experience, to sanitation personnel working in rural areas of the Hawaiian Islands. I should like to ask the special representative whether he could tell us of any progress, or of the present situation with regard to the training of sanitation personnel.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): To the best of my knowledge, no sanitarians has as yet been sent to Hawaii for additional training. We have conducted a three-months' training course at Truk. We are applying the training to local conditions. We are planning to send at least one Micronesian to Honolulu in the near future, but, to date, none has been sent.

Mr. SCOTT (New Zealand): My last question on this section relates to the statement on page 84 of the report, relating to housing and town and country planning, that "Planning for administrative centres is in the formulative stage and must remain there until funds are made available for permanent construction". I wonder whether there has been any development since this statement was written or whether the special representative would like to comment generally on the problem faced in the planning of administrative centres.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The reference here is to our administrative areas which we took over from Japan and which, at the time of the mandate, were given to the United States. We found those administrative areas to be quite scattered so far as housing was concerned, as were also the buildings in the administrative centres and the docks and warehouses.

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This resulted in a larger area of land being used than was required. During the past year we have done considerable planning with respect to our new administrative areas, as well as to the housing, warehouse and dock areas, with the aim of so placing the new construction as to involve a minimum of expense with regard to the maintenance of roads, communications and transportation, and to achieve maximum efficiency in the matter of operating the administrative centres, the warehouses and docks. I think that, as time goes on, this planning will result in other benefits.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): My first question arises from the following statement on page 65 of the report: "The Saipanese have attained a fairly modern culture and have advanced more rapidly than islanders elsewhere in the trust territory." We realize that, in a Territory dispersed as this is, there is bound to be this kind of phenomenon of islanders belonging to one group of islands developing and evolving more rapidly than the others. There are possibly some advantages and possibly some disadvantages in that sort of development. Could the special representative give us his observations on this development? Is there any particular community which is very much ahead of the other communities? And, conversely, is there any community which is lagging far behind the others, and what is the Administration doing generally to even up development in all the islands?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): It is true that the northern Marianas -- Rota, Tinian and, particularly Saipan -- are, in terms of modern culture, far advanced beyond other districts in the Trust Territory. This is due, in large measure, to the location of these islands, which are near Guam, and between Guam and the Orient, especially Japan. Guam was one of the first islands of importance in the Pacific because of its size and its location, and, because of the interest evinced in it by the Spanish, the Germans, the Japanese and other countries, Guam made considerable progress. The Saipanese, the Tinians, the Rotanese and the Chamorros are also advanced, the Saipanese being the most advanced in terms of modern living. Yap, as I mentioned earlier, is the least cultured district which we have; the others fall between. I think that the Palauans would come next to Saipan in the

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matter of culture. We have made no specific plans, in the High Commissioner's office, to attempt to level the culture of these people in order that we might achieve a common culture, a common degree of advancement throughout the Trust Territory.

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Personally, I think that there would be the danger of holding back those people who are now most advanced, and I think that that danger would probably offset any good which might result from accelerating the acceptance of a new culture in the lower degrees of what might be called modern culture.

I might state at this point that I feel very deeply that Micronesia, and each of its parts, belongs to the Micronesians. The Administering Authority is there to aid the Micronesians. I do not believe that justice would be served if we attempted either to push one group backward or bring another group forward too rapidly.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I am very much obliged to the special representative for his observations. I was thinking more of the danger that one community, because of its very advanced condition, would monopolize -- for example -- the posts in the administration. I presume that the Administering Authority will provide for such a development.

My next question concerns freedom of the press, referred to on page 66 of the annual report. We read that there are a number of newspapers in various Districts and municipalities. I should like to know whether the Administering Authority has ever considered the possibility of publishing a weekly newspaper on a Territory-wide basis, with the main purpose of developing a territorial consciousness, of bringing to the attention of other islanders problems arising in the various areas of the Territory.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): That question presents interesting possibilities. Frankly, I had not considered a weekly newspaper, possibly because of the language differences. Of course, the newspaper could be published in English, but that would give it limited value in the Districts. I am doubtful, at this stage in the Territory's development, of the advantages of a weekly newspaper. I should, however, be more than happy to study the question upon my return to the Territory and to give a detailed report about it next year.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I was thinking of a weekly newspaper in the English language.

My next question relates to the table of prosecutions, acquittals and convictions to be found on page 131 of the annual report. We see in that table that the number of convictions in the community courts in the Truk District is rather large; generally speaking, there have been more convictions, in terms of percentages, in the Saipan and Truk Districts than elsewhere. Is there any particular significance in these figures?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I have not analysed the reasons for these differences. One reason, however, does come to mind quickly: The Truk District is the most populated district in the Territory; it has approximately 16,000 people. The number of prosecutions is, nevertheless, completely out of proportion to the number in the Marshalls, where there are 11,000 people and only 22 prosecutions. There is also another reason which comes to mind: There are more roads in Truk, and definitely more in Saipan, than in the other Districts. There are many more jeep owners and operators in Truk and Saipan than in any of the other Districts. I would hazard the guess that the majority of these prosecutions are for traffic violations.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): I should like to refer now to document T/1179, which is a summary of major developments in the Trust Territory since 30 June 1954.

Referring to the people in Uterik and Rongelap who were affected by the March 1954 nuclear fall-out, the Administering Authority states that the Uterikese have been returned to their atoll and that the Rongelapese have not yet been returned, but will be returned in the near future. The statement is also made that, because the Rongelapese have been unable to resume their customary pursuits in their new environment -- presumably the Island of Ejit -- their basic subsistence is being supplied at the expense of the United States.

I should like to ask why these people have not yet been able to resume their customary pursuits in their new environment. Is it because of some physical debilitation? Have they not yet been completely cured?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): It is definitely not because of any physical disability. It is because of the nature of the area in which these people are living. Ejit is a small island on which they cannot grow sufficient coconut to make copra. The lagoon is not the same as the lagoon at Rongelap, as regards the possibility of catching fish and thereby providing food. The land area is too small to permit the growing of taro and other indigenous crops. In short, the reason why these people cannot carry out on Ejit the same pursuits as on Rongelap is that the nature of the area in which they are now living does not permit it.

Mr. JAIPAL (India): Could the special representative tell us how soon these people are likely to be returned to their former home, Rongelap?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The people of Rongelap who are are now on Ejit will be returned to Rongelap when we are advised that the latter atoll is free from radiation and that, from a health standpoint, it is safe for the people to live on the island without any restrictions.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): My first question relates to page 70 of the report, having to do with the status of women. It is said in the report that men and women in the Territory have equal rights and opportunities in the political and economic fields. Could the special representative tell us what really practical opportunities exist for women to have equal access to activities in the social, political and economic life of the Territory? Are there kindergartens and are there nurseries which would make it possible for women to take an active part in various economic, political and social activities?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): To the best of my knowledge, the Trust Territory does not have kindergartens or nurseries in the sense of having particular places provided for the care of children in order that mothers may work and be on an equal footing with men by virtue of being freed of the responsibility of taking care of children. However, the Micronesian society throughout contains a built-in system of caring for children which could well be imitated by most of us. There is no such thing as an unwanted child in Micronesia. Normally, the smaller youngsters are cared for by another age group of children who, in turn, are supervised by another age group. The children cannot then be said to be the reason why women cannot participate in local political and economic affairs. In some of the districts, women have run -- and run successfully -- for Congress. In other districts, women have not as yet run for any elective office -- again, because of the local customs and habits of the people themselves. Women just do not desire to run as yet. I think that in time there will be more and more participation.

The Administering Authority's attitude is that, whenever we may help in any way in connexion with the participation of women in our political and economic endeavours, we will so help. On the other hand, we will not, as the Administering Authority, force the people in the various districts to change their normal thought patterns and ways of life.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): Can the special representative tell us the total number of women who have been elected to the municipal councils of the Territory and also the total number of women who are engaged in government service?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I do not have the figures broken down. I will hazard a guess, which I think is quite accurate, that in our various Congresses and Councils we no doubt have about fifteen women participating. In government service -- this would include the clerks, the typists, the school teachers -- we no doubt have approximately 150 to 200 women on the payroll.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): In connexion with the reply to the first part of my question, I should like to know what percentage the fifteen women constitute. As for the second part of the reply, I should like to have it clarified by the special representative: is he referring to women who are indigenous inhabitants, or does he include in that figure women who are not indigenous?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): Percentagewise, I would guess that fifteen would represent approximately 10 per cent. Actually, it would be less than that. Somewhere between 5 and 10 per cent of women are engaged in the governmental structure, the administrative structure.

I referred only to indigenous women when I spoke of those who worked for the Government.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): My next question pertains to page 72 of the report. It is stated there that the transition of the indigenous inhabitants from their traditional occupations to work which is paid for in money has led to certain cultural, social and economic difficulties. Could the special representative give us a more detailed explanation of what kind of maladjustments are involved?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): This has been an interesting problem to watch in Micronesia. I think that the essence of the problem is that, when a worker goes on to a wage base rather than participating in a work programme at the community level, two things happen. First, the younger men are taken away from the community so far as agricultural pursuits are involved. The community then does not share in the division of the harvest which results from such a young man's agricultural effort. Second, the man working for a wage tends to consider the money received as belonging essentially to him and not as an item to be divided with the clan or the family, as the food produced by him was divided before he went on the payroll economy. This has brought about the need for some adjustments.

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There have been no serious/upsets as a result of the young men going into a wage economy and away from a production or a foreign economy. What has happened in fact in many instances is that the man going on the wage economy has accepted the responsibility more and more for providing with dollars for the care of his immediate family. But his production effort has been taken out of the community. I do not believe that we have any serious situations anywhere, but it has created a peculiarly interesting social problem in the Territory.

Mr. BENDRYSHIEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): What did the Administering Authority do to facilitate this transition of the former agricultural workers for people engaged in handicrafts to occupations which are of an administrative or industrial character? Apparently the Administration itself is one of the main employers in the Territory. Did the Administering Authority make available lodging for the workers? Did they provide the recreation facilities and rest areas? Did they create educational facilities? When one speaks of cultural and economic maladjustments, apparently the reference means that it was necessary, or should be necessary, to take measures, for instance, to prevent an increased crime rate or such repercussions.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): First, we must consider that this change to a wage economy on the part of some of the Micronesians took place, in very large measure, before the United States became the Administering Authority. When we became the Administering Authority, we found in each of the districts a fairly well organized district centre, to which Micronesians had over the years migrated and in which houses and facilities did exist for the care of the Micronesians.

The Administering Authority, since it took over, has not developed new industrial areas; in fact there are no major industries as such in the Trust Territory. The Administering Authority has not developed new centres of populations. In short, our contribution to any maladjustment which might have occurred by reason of the farm-type economy changing to a wage economy

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occurred before we arrived. In several instances we had not maintained the extreme high level of employment which might have been carried on before or during the war, but in fact our policy has caused the Micronesians to go back to the land, producing copra and living off the land. For those reasons it is difficult to answer the question which, by its nature, would imply that the Administering Authority has created a problem which in effect was there when we got there and by the time we took over ceased to be much of a problem.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): But it seems to me that the annual report states that there exists at this time definite cultural as well as economic maladjustments as a result of this transition. I asked my question in that regard. It seems to me that the special representative does not deny that these maladjustments, these repercussions, exist to this date. We are not entering now into a discussion of the origin of these maladjustments, whether that was due to the present Trusteeship System or whether it was due to the Japanese administration. Nevertheless, the question arises as to what is being done to the existing problems. What measures is the Administration taking to correct the existing situation? For instance, in the field of housing for as regards recreational facilities and educational facilities, what is being done by the Administration?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): The point I was trying to make, and missed, is that the housing already existed for the workers. We have not had a housing problem because we had not brought in new workers. Housing is available for the employees of the Government. In so far as schooling is concerned, we have provided schooling facilities in the district centres to meet the needs of the Micronesians. In short, and I think in direct response to the question, we do not have a housing problem; we do provide schooling facilities and there are the other facilities such as health, water, roads and so on, which normally follow any populated district.

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I do not intend to belabour the question, but I did want to develop the point that the housing already was there and that we have provided the schooling.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): I would like to have this question further clarified by the special representative. Are there any facilities for the workers themselves -- not for children but for the workers -- to receive some education? Are there vocational schools or workers' clubs where they could meet? Apparently that did not exist and, as one can see from the report, the employers usually do not make available to the workers housing areas. Therefore, they have to look for housing themselves or they have to build it.

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I appreciate the clarification given by the representative of the Soviet Union. In each of our departments we have vocational training which goes along with the job. We have meetings of employees where English is taught and where arithmetic is taught. We have sessions with our clerks to teach typewriting, and with the bookkeepers to teach bookkeeping. We have insisted throughout the district upon a regular training programme. I believe that our vocational programme is one of the most important projects in the way of education in the Trust Territory, because it is definitely practical and useable. We have provided housing in one area for workers in recent years. That is Majuro where we have started the dock operation and brought some ten or twelve in from another island. They have been completely cared for.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The special representative has noted that at this time there is a reversal of the trend, that is, from various branches of industry towards the villages. In other words, the number of workers is decreasing. Do those who return to the villages receive land?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): When they return to the villages, they fit in to the village life. Had they owned land at the time they left the villages, they would own the land when they returned and they would work it. There has been no migration of size or of numbers of people from a district centre back to the land which would create a special or a specific problem. Reference in the report is, in my opinion, to individuals who go back to their home islands from the district centres. In their home islands, they are accepted into the community and pick up life where they left it at the time of their departure for the centre.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My next question refers to page 73. On that page, it is stated that the Administering Authority does not hire persons who are less than fourteen years of age. Nothing is said concerning other branches of the economy of the Territory. Is there child labour in fact in the Territory? If so, to what extent? Is there any legislation which would prohibit, limit or regulate child labour in the Territory?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): I know of no legislation in the Trust Territory covering child labour and neither do I know of any children being employed in the Trust Territory. Our commercial firms are located in the district centres where the district administrative staff is located. I am quite certain that I would have been informed had there been a practice or had a practice developed of using child labour. I have personally visited every enterprise in the Trust Territory which hires labour and I can say that I do not recall having seen at any time any evidence of the use of child labour. This

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would be not only because the firms themselves do not try to hire child labour but also because the Micronesians do not consider a child capable of working and the families would not permit their children to go into the commercial world at such an early age. As was brought out the other day, in one of our districts a person must be twenty-six years of age, I believe it is, before he is thought to be old enough to vote. I know of no problems with respect to child labour in the Trust Territory.

Mr. BENDRYSHEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): My next question refers to page 85. Chapter 12 of the report consists of one line only which says that prostitution is not a significant problem in the Trust Territory. From this, one might conclude that it is nevertheless a problem. Perhaps it is not a significant problem, but the problem does exist. Perhaps the special representative could elaborate in this connexion. Is there prostitution in the Territory? If so, does it exist lawfully? What is done against this social evil?

Mr. NUCKER (Special representative): If there is prostitution in the Trust Territory, it is not lawful. I personally think that the choice of words in chapter 12 was not good. I do not know of prostitution being practised in the Trust Territory. If there is any, I have yet to find out about it.

The PRESIDENT (interpretation from French): I believe that we have finished our questioning on social advancement. We still have educational advancement, which we will take up tomorrow. I wish to invite those members of the Council who wish to do so to prepare their statements for the general debate. It might be that we will not need much time for educational advancement. The questions may be exhausted very rapidly. Therefore, I hope it will be possible to begin the general debate.

(The President)

The Drafting Committee on Nauru will meet tomorrow morning at 10 o'clock in Conference Room 5. The Committee on Administrative Unions will also meet tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock, in Conference Room 11.

The agenda for tomorrow will include the continuation of the examination of the annual report of the Administering Authority on the administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands and the examination of petitions: 123rd report of the Standing Committee on Petitions (T/L.576).

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.