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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTEEN HUNDREDTH MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Thursday, 1 June 1967, at 10.30 a.m.

President:

Miss BROOKS

(Liberia)

1. Examination of conditions in New Guinea: annual report of the Administering Authority [4] (continued)
2. Examination of petitions concerning New Guinea [5] (continued)
3. General Assembly resolutions on the question of the Trust Territory of New Guinea and the Territory of Papua [10] (continued)

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e. the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.1300 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed version.

AGENDA ITEMS 4 (b), 5 and 10

EXAMINATION OF CONDITIONS IN NEW GUINEA: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ADMINISTERING AUTHORITY (T/1660 and Add.1; T/L.1119) (continued)

EXAMINATION OF PETITIONS CONCERNING NEW GUINEA (T/COM.8/L.2; T/PET.8/L.10 and L.11; T/PET.8/22 and 23) (continued)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS ON THE QUESTION OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA AND THE TERRITORY OF PAPUA (2112 (XX) and 2227 (XXI)) (continued)

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Harry West, Special Representative for the Trust Territory of New Guinea under Australian Administration, and Mr. Zurecnuoc and Mr. Eupu, Advisers to the Australian delegation, took places at the Council table.

The PRESIDENT: We shall now continue with the questioning of the Special Representative.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): The Council will recall that yesterday, in answer to a question, the Special Representative mentioned that 3 per cent of the total land area of Papua and New Guinea had been alienated. I do know that this is choice land. This is land capable of producing most of the products that are indigenous to the Territory. I should like to know from the Special Representative in whose hands can be found the bulk of this 3 per cent of land.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): Yesterday, in my opening statement, I pointed out that there was a very considerable area of New Guinea with a very good agricultural potential, and that this alienated land only forms a small percentage of the good arable land. Definitely, most of the arable land is still in the hands of the indigenous people under traditional tenure. However, of the 3 per cent that has been acquired by the New Guinea Government from the people, for public purposes and for leasing for agricultural and other purposes, I would

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say there is probably about 70 per cent in the hands of people other than indigenous. This land, as I pointed out, is very largely lease-hold land, subject to improvement conditions. The utilization of this land is making a very big contribution to the economy of the Territory in many ways, including the provision of labour, as a resource from which taxes are derived and a contribution to the export income, and so on.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): I would like to thank the special representative for his answer informing us that 70 per cent of the 3 per cent of the land that has been alienated is in the hands of expatriates.

I turn now to my next question. My delegation has recently received several letters of protest from the inhabitants of a place called New Hanover in New Guinea. We gather from the letters that several hundred of the inhabitants are in the forests for fear of being arrested if they return to their villages and cities, and that several hundred of those already living in the villages and cities have been imprisoned. It is believed they were imprisoned as a result of some protests against unfair taxation or unfair taxation practices.

We are further informed by some observers that a problem commonly called the "Lyndon B. Johnson cult" is responsible for the unrest, although there are different views on this. I should like to know -- because it seems that the problem in New Hanover is being motivated almost upon a crisis -- what the Administration is doing to appease the situation or to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): First of all, I should like to say that I can assure the Council that the reports which apparently have been received by Mr. Eastman with respect to this matter are exaggerated. In the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, as in many other developing countries of the world, there are problems from time to time relating to what is fairly commonly known as "cargo cults". This, briefly, results from people not being fully familiar with industrialization and the large-scale production processes. There has been some problem with such a cult in the New Hanover area. However, the situation that exists there is basically a local one concerning the local Government Council.

As far as the Council taxes are concerned, these taxes are indeed very modest in comparison with the capacity of the people concerned to pay taxes.

The tax rate is decided upon by the local Government Council, by the Councilors elected to represent the various villages in the Council area. These people themselves decide on the tax rate. The only time that the central Administration would step into this situation would be when it thought that the tax rate was too high. In that case it would advise the Council to reconsider the matter. This has not happened in this case. So we have the situation in which the representatives of the people have applied a modest tax rate which they have decided upon themselves, and some of the difficulties have arisen in the collection of this tax.

I might point out too that even though a tax rate is applied, there is provision for some exemption if a person can show that he is not capable of paying this amount of taxation.

If some of the people are in the forests -- and I can assure the Council that there are certainly not several hundred people in the forests -- they are there because they do not wish to pay this very modest amount of taxation which their own Council wishes to collect from them to finance their own local development. As far as the Administration is concerned, in this particular area the people are being given every possible assistance. New Hanover is a fairly large island, only a couple of hours across from the capital of New Ireland by trawler. The Administration is now assisting the people to put a road through the centre of the island to make it even simpler for them to get their produce to market. In addition, even though there is already good sea communication across calm waters, the Administration is currently constructing an air strip so that these people can travel by air if they prefer to do so, and also in order to bring the Administration headquarters into a little closer contact with the people.

There is a government station on New Hanover. There is a well-qualified adviser for the Council to assist them in any way in which they would seek advice. There are schools on New Hanover of good standard and there are very good medical services. The people have every opportunity to make rapid progress. They have plenty of first-rate land which is admirably suited to the production of copra and rubber.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): I am astonished by the special representative's reply. He has exonerated the Administration in this problem. He said that it was a local problem concerning the local Government Council; in other words if it is just one person whose home has been destroyed, whose family has been broken up and who is still in the forests in New Hanover, it is of no concern. But he says that since it is a local problem, the Administration is exonerated. The special representative also said that when the Administration believed that the taxes were too high, it would intervene. But it appears now that the Administration approves since it has not intervened. He has not told this Council that one single investigation has been initiated. How will this problem ever be solved? How will advancement come to pass? The people's point of view has not been exposed and the Administration insists that it is a local problem. I shall ask no further questions on this problem, although several could be asked. I shall turn to my next question.

We have just been informed of a new kind of taxation being imposed in the entire Territory; I believe that it is called a poll tax. I should like to know the nature of this tax, who introduced it in the House of Assembly, and by how many votes it was adopted.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): I thought that it would have been clear from my first answer to the representative of Liberia that the Administration is giving close and continuous attention to this situation in New Hanover. I pointed out that New Hanover is very close to the district capital and that the average traveling time is two hours. But New Hanover can be reached by speed boat in a little over a half hour. We have had a number of competent, experienced Government officers working with the people continuously. They have been provided with every assistance and every advice. The truth of the matter is that this situation has vastly improved.

Quite a number of people who initially opposed the payment of taxes are now readily paying those taxes to their Council. As I said, the Administration did not intervene to advise the Council -- which represents the people and is elected by them -- on this amount of tax because the Administration realized that the amount of the tax was quite a fair one. I pointed out that if there were individual cases of hardship, there is a tax tribunal composed of three members of the Council to which the people can appeal.

The Administration, to use an Australian phrase, is bending over backward to help those people to solve one of their own local problems. There is nothing more that we can do to assist in this problem. It is abating, and we no longer consider it to be a serious one.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): We have just listened to a reply to the previous question. I had asked another question about the new taxation which I believe is called the poll tax, which has just been passed by the House of Assembly. I had left the matter of New Hanover. I am not dealing now with the petition here, as was objected to yesterday by the representative of Australia. As a point of reference in substantiating my point, I should like to read a portion of a petition:

"The whole social structure or organization and authority that the people had before, centred in their village chiefs, is broken down. But the new style of government hasn't been established well enough to take its place. That's a problem. (T/PET.8/L.11, p. 2)

(Mr. Eastman, Liberia)

That is the point that I was trying to raise here. I did not ask the Special Representative about New Hanover. I want to know about the new poll tax which one hears about and which has just been adopted through a resolution by the House of Assembly. I should like to know who proposed it and by how many votes it was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: If I am not mistaken, the petition to which the representative of Liberia has referred is a general one, and I think that he has the right to refer to it.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): The piece of legislation that the representative of Liberia referred to is the Income Tax (Rates) on Chargeable Income Ordinance, 1966. That piece of legislation, like a good deal of other legislation, is introduced by the Administration. It is the practice of the executive arm of government to prepare a good deal of legislation. I think that one of the noticeable things about the New Guinea House of Assembly, by the way, as happens in very many countries, is the number of private member's bills that are introduced and in fact passed. I would say that there is a bigger percentage of private member's bills in the New Guinea House of Assembly than in either the Australian Parliament or the British Parliament. However, this piece of legislation was prepared by the executive arm of Government and submitted to the House of Assembly. Possibly later on, you might care to invite Mr. Zurecnuoc to inform you on how the voting went on this particular piece of legislation.

My understanding is that there was a substantial majority in the House of Assembly that voted for it. In any case, there was a majority. That is our system. That piece of legislation was introduced to replace the Tax Rates Ordinance which was an annual bill submitted to the House relating to the head tax. That head tax imposed a fixed amount on people according to the area in which they lived and according to the economic circumstances of the various areas. Also it was a very modest tax, a maximum of four dollars a year, and provision was made for exemptions. The Tax Rates Ordinance has not been passed this

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financial year, and the Income Tax (Rates) on Chargeable Income Ordinance largely replaces this particular piece of legislation. What this legislation does is to impose a modest tax on people of low income. In fact, I would think that it costs almost as much to collect this tax as the tax amounts to.

One of the purposes of this legislation at this particular time was to keep before the people the fact that they must become accustomed to making some small contribution to public revenue. As you are well aware, very many services are provided absolutely free in New Guinea. That was done because of the circumstances in earlier times. The Administration is now thinking more and more along the lines that people have to become accustomed to paying for some of those services according to their means. This particular piece of legislation provides that when a person makes more than eight dollars a week, he is obliged to pay a 2 per cent tax under the Chargeable Income Ordinance, provided he is paying no income tax, and there is a maximum payment of twenty dollars. That means that a person who has an income of eight dollars a week or more pays sixteen cents -- and proportionately more if the income is higher -- in tax under this particular ordinance.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): Before we leave this point, I should like to ask by whom this legislation was introduced in the House of Assembly.

Mr. ZURECNUCC (Adviser to the Australian Delegation): Before this Bill was introduced in the House of Assembly, we felt pressure as soon as we got into the House, and there was a lot of talk about becoming independent or having some self-government, and it was at our own request. The members said we should be taxed and we should do something now before it was too late. We felt we should be trying to become independent. Members said that we should be taxed, and we requested this from the Administration. This went on for a year, and then the tax bill was introduced and all the members supported it. This will affect the income and earnings of those who live in the towns. In other words, it was pay as you earn. We felt that we must contribute something toward development or we may get used to taking things for granted. We made this request of the Administration a number of times, and the Administration produced a bill which was introduced into the House, and this bill received support and was passed.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): I still have not been informed by whom this bill was introduced.

Mr. ZURECNUOC (Adviser to the Australian Delegation): It was introduced by the Treasurer.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): And the Treasurer is an official member, an Australian?

Mr. ZURECNUOC (Adviser to the Australian Delegation): Yes.

Mr. MCCARTHY (Australia): It is with diffidence that I venture to add a little to what my colleague from New Guinea has just said. I would explain to the representative of Liberia that there is nothing sinister in the preparation and introduction of a bill by the Treasurer or by any other member of the

(Mr. McCarthy, Australia)

Government party in the House. This is the normal parliamentary practice in Australia, and Mr. West has just explained that in the bills which go through or which do not go through -- that is, they may be rejected by the New Guinea House of Assembly -- there are many private bills. But regardless of who prepares a bill, regardless of who introduces a bill, that bill cannot become law in New Guinea unless it is passed by the House of Assembly and receives the necessary majority. I would point out again that the majority in that House of Assembly is an indigenous majority of freely elected representatives representing all the people of New Guinea. In other words, a law cannot be enacted in New Guinea unless it is passed by the majority. For example, the Administration cannot make a law in New Guinea unless a bill is prepared and that bill receives the approval of the Parliament in Port Moresby.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): Remembering the practice of the Council in the past, I would hate to answer the Australian representative, but he insists on making comments when a member of the Council is about to put a question. Therefore, I have no choice in this matter except to answer him or to refer to the statement just made by Mr. Zurecnuoc. He told this Council a few minutes ago that the House of Assembly was involved in talk about independence or self-determination. Mr. McCarthy said there was nothing sinister about this but we heard that the Australian representative presented a tax bill. So the condition has now developed from the discussion of self-determination or independence of a new tax being imposed on an already helpless people.

I will now turn to my next question. Mr. Zurecnuoc is an Under-Secretary in the Treasury, as I have been given to understand. I should like to know from him what his functions are. In the past, the Trusteeship Council has recommended to the Australian Government that it abolish the system of Under-Secretaries because they have been most ineffective. I should like to know what generally Mr. Zurecnuoc does as Under-Secretary in the Treasury.

Mr. ZURECNUOC (Adviser to the Australian Delegation): As I said yesterday, the Under-Secretary system is a new thing in New Guinea. But it was introduced, and it did not work properly for the past two years, as I have said, because of our small knowledge of modern government and modern methods of running a government. Most of us did not attend good schools, and we do not have the educational background. We found it difficult, on the one hand, but on the other hand, we were under pressure from our people. They wanted us to be with them, and we did not know what to do. Still, as I said yesterday, the Under-Secretaries have become more effective.

In my own capacity as Under-Secretary, I do not deal with the facts and figures; there are people who do this. I mainly represent the local people, and there are different ways of doing this. The Australians have their own way of thinking, and we have our own way of thinking, and sometimes there is conflict between different ideas. I have to advise the Treasurer about the way the money should be best spent, according to the wishes of the people. The Treasurer might insist that we must spend the money where the need exists, and I might say that this is not our way of thinking, we must give everybody their due. I only advise the Treasurer, and tell him what I hear from the local people. Our local politicians or public servants do not feel free to talk to the Australian people, and they come to me. They talk to me and I talk to the Directors and make suggestions to the Treasurer. It is really trying to make a decision, and making a decision is not always an easy matter. We make a decision, but we cannot please everybody, but a decision will help and please somebody, and that is what we have tried to do. You have passed that stage, and you do not feel this, but this is something new to us. We are still practising, and sometimes I am afraid to make decisions. Then I want to hide behind the Treasurer, so that the Treasurer can get all the blame. I try to understand and please my people, and this is sometimes very difficult.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): I want to assure Mr. Zurecnuoc that I appreciate his answer. I can understand his dilemma. This is precisely why we criticize the system of Under-Secretaries. He has just admitted that he serves in an advisory capacity. He picks up a little information from the population and passes it along to the Treasurer. I want to know from Mr. West whether this is the purpose set for the Under-Secretaries by their Administration.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): Yesterday this matter of Under-Secretaries was discussed at some length. I pointed out that the Under-Secretaries participate in the preparation of the draft departmental budgets, in departmental policy formation, and in framing bills concerning the departments, or with which the departments are concerned, for the House of Assembly. I also pointed out that the Under-Secretaries come into Port Moresby at least a week before the beginning of each session of the House of Assembly and have detailed discussions with His Honour the Administrator on the various bills that it is proposed to put before the House. Also, five of the Under-Secretaries are members of the Administrative Council, which is the chief executive arm of the Government.

I think Mr. Zurecnuoc has pointed out that people occupying the positions of Under-Secretary are doing as much as their capacity permits them to do in participating in the running of departments. He said that he is very happy at times to know that the Treasurer is there to accept the responsibility when necessary. I think that is a very honest statement from Mr. Zurecnuoc to make. I believe he has indicated that under the under-secretary system these people are being brought into the work of government to a very large extent, and that the limitation is more on the persons carrying this responsibility than on the system itself.

We have also pointed out that as far as the next constitutional step is concerned, we have consulted the people in the best possible way: through the Select Committee on Constitutional Development, nine of the fourteen members of which are indigenous people. Their report is expected within a week, and, as I have said, the Government will no doubt give very, very careful consideration to whatever recommendations are made. The report will certainly indicate what the people want.

I think, Madam President, Mr. Zurecnuoc might care to say something here to add to what I have said, if that is permissible.

Mr. ZURECNUOC: If I remember well, Mr. Eastman said that the Under-Secretaries act only in an advisory capacity. However, I do not think it is meant to be so. It depends on the individual Under-Secretary how he performs his duties.

I do make certain decisions that do not please the Treasurer, and I make them whether he likes it or not. Sometimes he has to do something all over again and he does not like it. But he will point out that there is only one more year to go, and I had better do this or that. Sometimes too we have a lot of headaches because he thinks differently. He wants to spend money on a certain item and I say that no money should be spent on it.

No, I do not think I act only in an advisory capacity. It all depends on the individual Under-Secretary.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): I will now proceed to my next question. It involves the labour situation in the Territory of Papua and New Guinea. It has been brought to our attention that there is a system of recruitment in Papua and New Guinea of labour to serve on large European plantations, where the indigenous people are compelled to put in time for, I think, a period of two years working on the plantations. Because they experience dissatisfaction after they have been recruited, in some cases they run away from the plantations. The Administration insists on having them captured and sometimes imprisoned, but oftentimes returned to the plantations which they abandoned, where they face difficulties.

We have also been informed, and we have had occasion to see, that the housing facilities, with sometimes as many as seven men in a room, and the ration system, where labourers require wages for their services but are given rations instead, continue to cause unrest.

I would like to know from the Special Representative or from the representative of Australia what the Australian Government has done about this labour situation as I have described it.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): First of all, I should like to say that in respect to employment on plantations, any indigenous person who undertakes such employment does so of his own free will. He decides whether

he wishes to undertake this form of employment or some alternative employment, or whether he wishes to remain in his home area. One of the facts of the situation is that frequently the indigenous person who goes to a plantation has to travel some considerable distance. This involves a considerable amount of expense, and this expense has to be borne by the person who owns the plantation.

The system of employment on plantations is now very varied. A very large percentage of the plantation employees are now casuals. I would think that the percentage is at least half; it is probably more like 70 per cent, particularly with the development of the Highlands region.

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However, of the people employed on plantations, there would still be about 70 per cent employed under agreements. Those agreements are normally of two years duration. There are obligations and responsibilities on the part of both the employer and the employee.

I categorically deny that anyone is captured in New Guinea. Serious offenders are in some cases apprehended, but certainly no one is ever captured. Also, certainly no one is ever imprisoned because he fails to comply with any labour agreement. That is just not the case. What happens in certain circumstances is that a person, for example, from the Sepik District, might go to a plantation in the Rabaul area, and after a short period of time leave the plantation employment. Very frequently young people of about twenty years of age wish to go from the remote areas to the big towns and they use this system of recruitment as a way of getting to the place. Sometimes a young man will arrive at the Rabaul airport and disappear straight away. He has just used the contractual agreement as a means of getting to a main town.

With respect to the plantation owner, he can institute a civil action for damages against such a person, under our law of contract. But normally that is not done because legal proceedings for such an action would be quite expensive and it is not likely that any decision for damages that he would get would be enforceable. The person has to be located, and if he is located he has to have the money to be able to pay the damages.

I now come to the question of whether the administration assists the plantation owners in this matter. In circumstances where a person has on the face of it wilfully broken an agreement and acted in the manner that I have described, the administration offers, if it should come in contact with that person, to draw his attention to his legal responsibilities under the contractual arrangement and to request him to carry out those obligations. That is as far as the matter goes.

You might wish, Madam President, or the representative of Liberia might wish, to hear the views of my two advisers on this matter.

Mr. McCARTHY (Australia): Madam President, before you proceed on the suggestion made by the Special Representative, I should like to summarize and emphasise the point he has made. There are no penal sanctions in New Guinea in respect of labour. There are no penal sanctions of any kind in New Guinea in respect of labour. Any agreement to work between a New Guinean and an employer of any kind is a civil contract in exactly and precisely the same way as Mr. Eastman, the Special Representative, you, Madam President, I or anybody here might enter into a civil contract of employment with an employer. But I wish to repeat: there are no penal sanctions of any kind and there is no enforcement in respect of penal sanctions because they do not exist.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): There is one point that was not covered in the answer. I should like to know whether it is a fact that, if the local police do not arrest, imprison, apprehend or return those runaway people, they do assist in locating them.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): I can assure the representative of Liberia that there are no penal sanctions and that the local police do not apprehend those people. It is purely and simply a civil matter.

I should like to reply to another part of the question put by the representative of Liberia. He spoke of seventy men in a room.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): I mentioned seven men in a room.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): I am sorry, I thought the figure mentioned was seventy. However, the number of men in a room would depend, of course, on the size of a room. There are some places where there could be many more people sleeping in one room. This situation is very rigidly controlled by legislation relating to housing conditions. There must be a certain footage or cubic footage, whatever the case may be, of space, light and air for every person. Therefore, living conditions are controlled by legislation, and the legislation is controlled by the House of Assembly. I should also point out that those conditions, like other conditions of employment on plantations, are subject to regular inspections by the Department of Labour. Those inspections take place at intervals of no greater than one year.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): I should like to thank Mr. West for his answer and to give him a bit of information. When he returns to the Territory perhaps it might be wise for him to visit a place called the Duval Plantation, where he will see the deplorable situation of how the natives live and what they are given as rations. Perhaps the Inspector from the Department of Labour omitted to inspect that particular place.

We have been given to understand that the administration complies with the minimum wage rate but that private industries have failed to comply with it and that their employees still get far less than the amount required by law. I should like to know whether this is true and, if so, what the administration is doing about it.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): Everyone is obliged by law to comply with the minimum wage rates; in many cases these minimum wage rates are exceeded. The Administration carries out regular inspections, through its labour officers, of all places where indigenous people are employed. This does not only apply to plantations; it applies to industrial and commercial establishments in the towns as well; and these labour inspectors ensure that the minimum requirements are complied with. Apart from this, one way of finding out about a law that is not being followed is for people to make complaints; and this avenue is always open. If a person is not receiving the minimum wage he can, and he knows he can, go along and make a complaint to the local labour officer, and the complaint will be investigated. So if there are isolated cases where the legislation is not being complied with, there is plenty of room for redress by anyone who is affected by this non-compliance.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): This is my final question. In the Supplementary Report, which was so kindly submitted by the Australian delegation, one reads, on page 45, under the title "Private Sector":

"A number of complaints were made to the Department of Labour during the year and all were investigated..."

I should like to know what some of those complaints were?

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): In my opening statement I pointed out the large number of indigenous people who are in regular employment. Apart from these there are very large numbers in casual employment. As a matter of fact, about 40 per cent of the people of the Territory have, to some extent, moved away from the traditional self-employment system on the small farmlets. So this means that there are an enormous number of people who are in employment either permanently or casually. Under these circumstances it is fairly self-evident that there are going to be some employer-employee problems.

As far as the details are concerned, to my knowledge in the New Britain District some of the complaints have been by taxi drivers: that they were not paid overtime rates; by people in small factories: that they were not being paid sufficient; by people on plantations: that they were expected to start work too early in the morning in relation to a particular crop which had to be picked, for example, cocoa; and complaints of this nature. These are the type of thing that we have had.

I can assure this Council that there have not been any serious complaints. There have been cases, as I have pointed out from time to time, of a major nature. There have also been cases where the employee or the employees have considered that they are entitled to a higher remuneration; and this type of matter has been attended to. This is the sort of thing one will get in any society. The worker is entitled to look after his own interest. He is quite entitled in New Guinea to go along to the relevant administration officer if he thinks his conditions can be or should be improved.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): I simply want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Australian delegation for the answers they have given. I already welcomed Mr. West in my opening statement. Let me in this public forum say how delighted I have been to have had the pleasure of talking with him again concerning the peoples of Papua and New Guinea.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France)(interpretation from French): I should also like extend a welcome to Mr. West and to his advisers, Mr. Zurecnuoc and Mr. Eupu.

The representative of Liberia pointed out yesterday that the great number of questions asked by previous speakers had considerably reduced the field of investigation. I should like, in my turn, to complain that the great number and variety of questions that he himself asked has aggravated the situation further. Nevertheless, there still remain a few questions which I should like ask of the Australian delegation.

My first question is as follows: With respect to the fifteen regional seats which are going to replace the ten special seats, and which were formerly reserved for the non-indigenous population, does the Special Representative have any idea of the number of indigenous citizens who will be sufficiently qualified to become candidates at the next election?

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): In answer to this question, I should like to say that in each of these electorates there will be a number of indigenous people qualified even in remote electorates like the Southern Highlands, which were only first brought under effective government in the 1950's. We have a number of indigenous people qualified, even though in these exceptional cases they might be people from other parts of the Territory of Papua and New Guinea, who have gone and lived there and probably married there, and have been there for a considerable number of years.

(Mr. West, Special Representative)

In all of the other electorates there are considerable numbers of people who have the required qualifications. I would say that, throughout the Territory, there would be at least several hundred people who are qualified. Of course, these are the people who come from the group which would normally supply candidates for the House of Assembly elections. It is interesting to note that the member for the Markham, which takes in Lae, one of our biggest towns, is a Papuan. Therefore, this indicates that people from one particular area of the Territory are prepared to vote for a person whose home might be in another part.

But the general answer to the question is that there will be in the electorates quite a large number of potential candidates. They are the people who would normally be the ones who would stand, the ones who have had a fair education.

However, I think that with your permission, Madam President, it might be desirable to ask Mr. Edric Eupu if he would like to add something to this. I think it is important to get the viewpoint of a New Guinean himself.

Mr. EUPU (Adviser, Australian delegation): On the question of regional electorates, there are a number of Papuans and New Guineans who are going to try. I think we will get the Papuans and New Guineans who have qualified to stand for these regional electorates. I know there are some who are going to try for these regional electorates.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France) (interpretation from French): I should like to thank Mr. West and Mr. Eupu for their answers. I now come to my next question. Does the budget estimate submitted each year to the House of Assembly include, apart from the local resources, a subsidy from the Australian Government, or is it only based on local resources? Do the members of the Assembly have to pronounce on the appropriations made available to the Territory from local resources on the one hand and from an Australian subsidy on the other hand?

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): There is only one budget. The funds from all sources are aggregated and this is the budget that is debated by the House of Assembly.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France) (interpretation from French): I should like to ask the Special Representative what the corresponding functions are of the administrative employees of the First Division referred to on page 33 of the report of the Administering Authority (T/1660). I should also like to ask him if indigenous citizens are in this category of officials?

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): Could I have the precise reference there, please?

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France) (interpretation from French): As of 30 June 1966, there is a breakdown, on page 33 of the report, of the officials in Papua and New Guinea into three categories: First, Second and Third Divisions. We are given the number of local employees for the Second and Third Divisions only. I should like to ask, therefore, what the corresponding functions of the First Division are, and if in this Division there are any officials of local origin.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): The First Division of the Public Service is a very small division and comprises only heads of department and like officers; for example, the Assistant Administrators and the Economic Adviser; the Commissioner of Taxation. That is the extent of this Division. It only comprises about twenty officers in a total of some 16,000 in the regular Public Service. Currently, there are no indigenous officers in the First Division, but, of course, they are certainly eligible.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France) (interpretation from French): That is why I asked the question. Is there any possibility or any hope that indigenous people might be given one of these jobs in the near future?

Mr. ZURECNOUC (Adviser, Australian delegation): Yes, there is a possibility. If we find anybody at any time, we will fill the post. But, you know, when a man comes out of university, he has to have a practical knowledge. It took those people, the department heads, many years to come up to this standard. We are trying to take somebody where we can fit them in and train them on the job. When we find them, we will do it.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France) (interpretation from French): I thank Mr. West and Mr. Zurecnouc. I should like to ask the Australian delegation if they know whether Mr. Walinsky will submit his proposals, and I should like to ask whether the mission had prepared a plan, as was requested. If so, how many years will be covered by this plan and how will the resources be financed? What resources will be devoted to the implementation of this plan?

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): The Australian Government has accepted the report of the World Bank Mission which was submitted in 1964 and is working out detailed plans. Currently, the permanent economic adviser who was appointed two years ago has just completed a five-year plan, after a great deal of consultation in all sorts of circumstances with all sorts of people who could make any kind of contribution. Apart from this, the Australian Government from time to time has experts to provide further advice and to enquire into particular fields of economic activity. This distinguished person, Mr. Walinsky, who has been referred to, is now in the Territory. He has not yet submitted any report to the Administration.

As far as the financing of these large-scale development plans is concerned, no doubt -- and it is the intention -- quite a number of these will be financed from the regular Australian grant and the revenue of the Territory, but it is also the aim of the Administration to attract private overseas capital which we have done in the tea industry and also in the palm-oil industry. It is further the intention of the Administration to obtain, if it can, World Bank assistance under the two schemes that operate under the World Bank. Just recently, as I pointed out in my supplementary statement, we have again had experts from the World Bank, who have looked at certain aspects of agriculture and forestry as well as at transport and communications. They have looked at a large hydro scheme which is proposed in the Ramu Valley. Very soon we are going to have another specialist group from the World Bank who will have a look at our telephonic and radio-telephonic communications systems. Thus the financing of the economic development will come from those various sources that I have mentioned -- or at least it is the intention of the Government that that will be so if such finance is available.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France) (interpretation from French): As I understand it, there are several plans, not just one plan. This, of course, is not necessarily a criticism since there are various ways of promoting the development of a territory.

(Mr. Gaschignard, France)

I should like to have some information as to how the commercialization of agricultural commodities is carried out. Is there a public or a private body entrusted with the task of stabilizing commodity prices? I believe that Mr. West mentioned that there was some price instability with respect to cocoa, and I wonder whether there is any public or private body which seeks to remedy this difficulty.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): The problem in relation to commodity prices is one over which we are unable to exercise any effective control. Even our major products are only minute when it comes to the volume of these commodities that find their way to the world market. In my opening statement I pointed out one of our problems concerning coffee.

New Guinea coffee prices are determined, of course, by world prices and we subscribe, and are obliged to subscribe, to the World Coffee Agreement. Since coffee is largely an indigenous industry in the Territory, about 70 per cent of the coffee being grown by the indigenous people, Australia moves in to a very large extent and takes a great volume of this coffee in order to ensure that all coffee produced is in fact sold. What we have done is to prohibit any further growing of coffee by expatriates. This we did a year or two ago and expatriates are no longer permitted to develop any more coffee plantings in the Territory. Wherever possible, we encourage the indigenous people to grow alternative crops.

As far as our other major crops are concerned, copra is marketed through a Copra Marketing Board, which is a most efficient organization. This approach to marketing is fully endorsed by the indigenous and expatriate growers.

Cocoa is sold on the world market at the best prices that can be obtained and there is no marketing board for cocoa, although a board of that nature has been considered. The situation is constantly under review, but it has been and is the expressed wish of the cocoa growers to market through agents. This system is quite satisfactory. The only problem that we have with cocoa is fluctuations in world prices. We have no control over this. There was a period about a year ago when cocoa prices did fall temporarily to a figure which we considered to be below the cost of production, but, fortunately for the Territory, this was not a prolonged period, and now cocoa prices are again satisfactory.

(Mr. West, Special Representative)

Thus, as far as commodities are concerned, it is the world market that largely determines price. As for stabilization, we do have a stabilization fund for copra and a stabilization fund has recently been introduced with respect to copra.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France)(interpretation from French): The Special Representative told us yesterday that a contract was being discussed with the Conzinc Rio Tinto Company for the exploitation of copper mines. I should like to ask who will be the other contracting party if this contract is finally signed. Mr. West also told us that 20 per cent of the capital of this future company will be subscribed by the population, or for its account. I should like to know which organization will take care of this operation. Finally, in connexion with the copper mines, will the copper be exported as ore, or will it be processed on the spot, at least in the first stage, before being exported?

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): To answer the second part of the question first, it is the intention that the ore will be exported in concentrated form. I understand that this would bring it down to a concentration rate of about 30 per cent. Final concentration would take place after exportation. But I understand that that is the usual practice.

At the same time, this agreement still exists only in draft form. The Government will certainly see that concentration to as great a degree as possible is undertaken in the Territory. As far as this particular operation is concerned, I stressed yesterday that further work will be needed to establish fully the economic feasibility of the project. But as this Company will have spent \$10 million on exploratory work by the end of this year, it is reasonable that at this particular stage the Government should come to some agreement with this organization should the project prove to be economically feasible. So all those arrangements are still in the preliminary stage.

Negotiations are currently going on between the Commonwealth Government and Conzinc Riotinto. Responsibility still rests finally with the Australian Government. But as the Minister for Territories has pointed out, when the executive action reaches the appropriate stage, which I think will be very soon, the matter will be referred to the House of Assembly, and any arrangements that are made by the Australian Government will be made for and on behalf of the people of the Territory with the consensus of the House of Assembly.

This is what it boils down to: the House of Assembly will say what is to happen in this matter and the funds which will be provided will be provided from Territory revenue which is largely revenue derived from the Australian grant. Whatever is done will be done for and on behalf of the people and the Government of New Guinea.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France) (interpretation from French): I should like to ask the special representative whether, in the contracts concluded by the Government with certain large industrial companies such as the Conzinc Riotinto Company, the Government systematically includes a clause compelling the Company to train local labour. Such a clause exists in contracts concluded in certain developing countries. I should like to know whether the contracts concluded by the Government of New Guinea with those companies include such a clause.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): As I have said, this agreement is still only in the draft stage, but I can assure the representative of France that this will be attended to, that those conditions will be included and, as a matter of fact, steps have already been taken to ensure that as much local labour as possible at all levels is employed in this undertaking. The firm itself is most anxious to give as much responsibility to the local people as it can in the various undertakings. It has already provided an impressive number of scholarships both for men and women. I thought that I had some figures at my fingertips, but I do not have them. The Conzinc Riotinto Company is already providing scholarships for men and women in various fields. This year they are subsidizing students to the amount of \$10,000, and they intend to increase that amount.

So the full intention of both the Government and the Company is to employ as many local people as possible and at the highest levels possible. In this respect I should like to give some general information. Recently, the Minister for Territories stated:

"The People of the Territory stand to benefit in four ways from the success of this project. In the first instance the people of Bougainville Island will reap lasting benefits from massive investment by the Company in roads, a port, power and water supplies and improved public amenities by way of schools and medical facilities that will be provided by the Administration. Secondly, both the people of Bougainville and the Territory as a whole will benefit from training and employment opportunities in both technical and staff positions and from local purchases made by the Company. Payments by way of taxation and royalties will in due course add substantially to Territory revenues. When the enterprise reaches the tax-paying stage, dividends will accrue on the 20 per cent local share of the Company's equity."

I might add that recently, within the last month, I visited this area in Bougainville where this mining takes place. I was most impressed with the degree of integration that has taken place. I can assure you that there is no discrimination as far as social conditions are concerned. The people of all races are living and working together; they eat in the same messes, have the same accommodations, and so on.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France) (interpretation from French): I should like to be sure that companies such as the Conzinc Riotinto Company not only use local labour, which is obvious, but that they also make a systematic effort to train that labour so that they can perform specialized work or be part of the management of the Company.

Although this subject has already been mentioned, I should like to come back to the question of the Advisory Committee on Business. I do not quite understand the composition of that Committee. We have been told that it includes four indigenous representatives and three Australian businessmen. Does that mean that this Committee is composed of only seven members or that there are others besides? I should also like to know who presides over that Committee.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): The Committee is presided over by the Director of Trade and Industry. This Committee frequently breaks up into sub-committees which study specific areas of the economy. The other members of the Committee which I did not specify are other Territory residents. For example, the Rabaul area has three representatives. There is Mr. Pako who is a prominent Tolai planter and business man; there is Mr. Frank Wilson who represents plantation interests; and there is a Chinese gentleman, Mr. Achon, who represents commercial interests in the town of Rabaul. What the Administrator has endeavoured to do in this advisory body is to gain the advantages of consulting with a good cross section of the business community. He wants to find out what the people are thinking and what should be done so that the thinking of the commercial community can be taken into consideration when the Government is formulating over-all economic policies.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France)(interpretation from French): I apologize, but perhaps the Special Representative did not completely understand my question. I wanted to know how many members there are in this Committee. It is not a very important matter, but it would be interesting to know.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): The number is either twelve or fourteen. There are so many of these committees that I cannot be sure of my facts without reference to documents which I do not have with me. But I am almost certain that the number is twelve.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France)(interpretation from French): I should like now to proceed to educational matters. Yesterday the Special Representative told us that at the University of Papua and New Guinea there were 168 students. Of these, sixty-three are studying arts, and a number of students are studying law. I should like to know what is the breakdown of the indigenous students and Australians who are following University courses.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): The University of Papua and New Guinea is only in its second year. The people who were not specified are those who are doing their preliminary year at the University. It is the system that

(Mr. West, Special Representative)

all students do a preliminary year, and this gives them an opportunity to decide on what their specialty is going to be. The number of Australian students at the University is about 5 per cent of the total.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France) (interpretation from French): I should like to ask the Special Representative whether there are some indigenous students who are following scientific courses, such as mathematics, physics and chemistry, rather than remaining in the field of the liberal arts and law.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): Here again, I would draw attention to the newness of the University and point out that only now is it in its second year of operation. We have been very careful to choose top level people in the various faculties, and many of the professors I have listed have only just taken up their positions. However, it is our intention to introduce a wider variety of courses as soon as possible, and I understand that courses in the sciences will commence in 1968.

Of course, we have the Papuan Medical College well established, where we are training doctors, and we have the Institute of Higher Technical Education, where we are attending to engineering and surveying and that type of higher education.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France) (interpretation from French): I asked this question because experience has shown that in many developing countries students are inclined to take up literary and commercial studies rather than scientific and engineering studies, whereas there is a great need for trained people in industry. Therefore, I feel it would be useful to encourage students to pursue scientific studies.

The Special Representative told us yesterday that about thirty students graduated each year from the Agricultural Institute. I should like to ask the Special Representative what is the level of the diplomas issued there and whether they correspond to the so-called Agricultural Engineering Diploma issued in France; in other words, people who are able to take up leading positions in agricultural enterprises or agricultural administration. Is that the level of the diploma?

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): The students from the Vudal Agricultural College graduate at the same level as students from agricultural colleges in Australia. They enter the Agricultural College at form IV level, which is the level at which students may enter the preliminary year at the University. They spend three years at the Agricultural College, at the end of which they receive a diploma. This diploma is not equivalent to a university degree at an Australian university. At the average Australian university, a degree would be taken after four years of study. This would be equivalent to the end of the second year at an Australian university.

(Mr. West, Special Representative)

These people largely will move out into the field of extension work, which is the very big one. As far as the Administration is concerned, extension work in all branches and all departments is extremely important.

Apart from moving into the Administration positions, there is no doubt that many of these people too will move out into private enterprise. Already some of the students are sponsored and paid for by private enterprise. For example, the Carpenter organization that we mentioned yesterday is currently supporting about twenty senior students at the Vudal Agricultural College at the Institute of Higher Education, and other students doing accountancy-type work. There is a big tendency now in the Territory for the large companies to support students at the secondary and tertiary levels.

Mr. McCARTHY (Australia): May I just add a few words to clarify the point that the representative of France asked about.

Mr. West indicated that in Australian practice there are two main forms of agricultural training. First there is the three-year-diploma training at agricultural colleges on a very high level, based on scientific agriculture but, on that base, concentrating rather more narrowly on the practical aspects of agriculture. In addition to that, there is the course in agriculture at the university, which is a four-year course concentrating on the same scientific background of training, but to a greater extent, and then concentrating more on the purely scientific aspects of agriculture rather than the more practical ones on which the agricultural colleges concentrate.

The training in these diploma courses is of a very high standard indeed, and these agricultural colleges, on which Vudal is modelled, are quite famous institutions of their kind.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France) (interpretation from French): My last question, which is in the same area, is whether or not there are any other agricultural schools or any other institutions for training people at a somewhat lower level,

(Mr. Goschignard, France)

the level we call that of agricultural monitors -- people who live in contact with the population, performing certain administrative functions in the various areas and districts, and advising the local people and introducing them to modern methods of agriculture.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): We place a great deal of emphasis on extension work in the field of agriculture. We have, of course, a number of experimental stations: one very famous one at Keravat, near Rabaul, which is concerned with low-level tropical agriculture; and another very famous one at Aiyura, which is concerned with high-level tropical agriculture. In addition to the Vudal Agricultural College, which turns out people at the diploma level and of which we are very proud, we have an institution at Popondetta in the Northern District of Papua, where we give people a two-year training period of Form II education. This institution turns out something like fifty people every year. These are employed at agricultural extensions.

We have a large number of Australians, both graduates and diplomates, who engage in agricultural extension work. And in the field, at the district level and the sub-district level, these graduates and diplomates, who are responsible for certain areas, conduct regularly and continuously a farmer-training course of one year's duration. The latest figure I have on this is that we have 1,500 such people in training. They live on a small agricultural extension station. They do practical training in the field with the people I have referred to, our graduates and diplomates, and they do classroom studies as well. At the end of the year they go back into a smaller area and they are responsible for local extension work in that area.

So we have what you might call a pyramid system with a person at the base of the pyramid who has had the one-year course, mainly in practical agriculture; above him, a person who has done the two-year course at Popondetta; and then above him, someone with either a diploma or a degree, who is responsible for the whole area.

(Mr. West, Special Representative)

As for the farmer-trainees that we turn out -- as I said, we have 1,500 of them under training at the moment -- there are too many of them for the Administration's requirements. Therefore, a lot of the graduates from the one-year course go back home to their own lands, where they become very much better farmers and where a lot of what they have learned rubs off onto the community at large. Also, many of these people who have undergone the one-year farmer-training course go into the new resettlement areas -- areas of land that the Administration has acquired, such as that in the Cape Hoskins area, where there is an overabundance of first-rate land and a very small population. There they take a block of about thirty acres, and this type of person does very well on such blocks of land.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France) (interpretation from French): It remains only for me to thank the Special Representative, the representative of Australia, the Advisers and members of the Australian delegation for their kindness in answering my questions and the clarity of their responses.

Mrs. ANDERSON (United States of America): I should like first to welcome Mr. West, Mr. Zurecnuoc and Mr. Eupu to the Trusteeship Council. I also wish to congratulate Mr. West for his comprehensive and very informative report which he gave to us and which I think is, on the whole, an encouraging one, which certainly gives many details concerning the very considerable progress that is being made in the Territory.

I have only a few questions to ask and I shall leave it to the Special Representative to decide at a given time whether he himself, the representative of Australia, Mr. Zurecnuoc or Mr. Eupu would prefer to answer the question. My first question concerns the time for the development of the exploitation of copra as an industry. It seems to us that this is a very welcome development, in view of the fact that it will afford greater diversification to the economy, and that such diversification should make the economy as a whole more viable and more stable, and thus, indirectly, certainly tend to further and hasten the process of self-determination. It seems to us very desirable that, since the economy has been independent on a very few tropical crops, a new industry of a somewhat more stable nature should soon be developed, namely the copra industry.

(Mrs. Anderson, United States)

I realize that the plans for the development of copper are still taking place, but I am wondering whether the Special Representative could tell us to what extent the exploitation of the copper deposits will affect the exports of New Guinea.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): It is anticipated that if the feasibility is established and the copper industry is proceeded with, by 1975 the current export income of the Territory of \$50 million would be doubled.

Mrs. ANDERSON (United States of America): My next question is also related to the development of the natural resources of New Guinea. I should like to ask the Australian delegation whether there is any attempt under way to make a comprehensive survey of the natural resources of New Guinea. I am sure that such a survey would be of great assistance to the future development of the country and to the Administration in planning for the future. I am also wondering, in this connexion, whether any of the United Nations specialized agencies have been contacted for assistance in such a survey, or possibly the South Pacific Mission, which might be useful in this connexion.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): With respect to surveys of resources, they have been taking place over a number of years by the Australian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, which has annually sent teams of specialists in various fields to the Territory. The approach has been to investigate on a district by district basis according to the estimated potential from preliminary surveys. Those teams normally comprise geologists, soil survey chemists, biologists and other people of that nature. The Australian Bureau of Mineral Resources also has teams in the field almost continually doing follow-up work.

Apart from those Commonwealth teams that are operating in the Territory and that have already given us a fairly good over-all picture, our own departments are also very active, particularly the Department of Forests, which has done detailed surveys in all of the likely places where there are good

forestry resources. Of course, all of the modern techniques that are possible in such an area are used. Helicopters are used quite regularly now in all parts of the Territory. The forestry resource surveys are very much aided and assisted by helicopters and the work has been speeded up considerably.

Apart from that, the Administration has in recent times employed a number of international consultants, particularly in the field of forestry, to carry out background and more positive investigation work.

In addition, there has been a great deal of work done in the field of oil exploration by several large companies. Just recently the oil exploration, which has been concentrated mainly in the gulf of Papua in the Western District, has extended to off-shore areas for the first time.

A number of companies are also currently investigating mineral resources in various parts of the Territory. As a matter of fact, currently the Administration is paying a great deal of attention to the possibility of minerals and oil being present in the Territory. The Administration realizes that as self-determination approaches, it is going to be a very good thing if we can get the diversification that the representative of the United States mentioned, and the time to start is now, and not in ten years.

Mrs. ANDERSON (United States of America): The Special Representative did not reply to my question concerning whether any of the United Nations specialized agencies has been involved in the survey of the natural resources.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): Up to the present time, no such specific work has been done. As I pointed out, we had an initial visit from the World Bank group in 1963. Their report came out in 1964. They made another visit this year. We are having people from the World Bank make another visit later this year to do investigation work into some of the proposals that we have put to them in relation to road development, hydro development and radio-telephone communication development.

Mrs. ANDERSON (United States of America): My next question concerns a somewhat different field. The Australian delegation yesterday mentioned the procedure for applying for commercial loans, and it seemed that both the question of adequate security and managerial capacity apparently are prerequisites for the granting of such loans. It seems to my delegation that loan funds which are readily available to the indigenous people are really essential to the economic development of the Territory. In this connexion, I wonder whether the Special Representative can tell me if there is any programme or scheme whereby New Guineans who may lack capital, but who obviously have managerial talents and experience, can obtain funds on easy terms so that they can enter into the productive life of the Territory.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): Yesterday, in talking about the Development Bank, I did say that one of its key functions would be the provision of small-scale credit to promote indigenous enterprise. I went on to say that the Bank will advance funds with regard not so much to security capital, but to the possibility of the venture being successful and to the contribution it will make to the development of the Territory.

Now, I think I can elaborate a little bit on that general principle and say that the intention is that the sort of finance, that the representative of the United States refers to, is covered in this. Of course, the Bank is not going to be foolish about this. But it is definitely the intention that opportunity will be given to indigenous people with initiative, and who can demonstrate that they have got a capacity for work, to obtain loans for the promotion of businesses, that seem as if they have got a good chance of success. Therefore, it will not be so much a matter of security, it will be a matter though of the person who applies for the loan giving some indication that he has got the capacity to make a success of the venture once he has the necessary finance.

Mrs. ANDERSON (United States of America): My next question concerns the development of marine resources. I noted in the Annual Report that the exports of marine products have decreased in recent years, although I imagine that the seas around New Guinea still must contain large numbers of fish. I should like to know whether the administration is considering the possibility of commercial exploitation of the marine resources, and if so, how this exploitation will be handled: whether outside companies will be invited to develop the resources or whether any interest has been shown from outside investment sources in this important connexion.

Mr. WEST (Special Representative): The decrease in marine exports is attributable almost entirely to the fact that shell is no longer a valued commodity on the world market through the increased use of plastics and other substitutes for buttons and such things that were formerly made from shell. And this has been a blow to the Territory because we did export quite a substantial amount of shell in proportion to our total exports. However, this is something over which we have no control. But in general terms, the administration in recent times has paid increasing attention to the development of fishing and associated industries. For example, on the south coast quite a great deal of barramundi fish is now being harvested and exported to Australia. Also on the south coast there is a well-established and quite lucrative crayfish industry. I understand that some of the crayfish is exported to the United States.

Within the last couple of weeks an Australian firm has established itself at Madang with four trawlers to carry out investigational work and determine fishing beds and so on. If the supplies are in sufficient quantity, there are indications that this industry based on Madang will go ahead. Just recently, too, the initial steps have been taken to establish a fish cannery at Rabaul; and this industry is being assisted in its development through permits that have been made available to enable certain Japanese to enter the Territory to pass on their skills to the indigenous people.

(Mr. West, Special Representative)

Another interesting one, in relation to fishing generally, is the fact that trial nurseries have been in existence for a couple of years in Port Moresby harbour in relation to the production of pearl shell. Initial indications are that there are good prospects of this important industry being successful. Here again we have called upon and received the technical knowledge of the Japanese.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): I am very sorry, Madam President, to delay the work of the Council, but I have just been informed by the Documents Officer that we will not have verbatim records for yesterday afternoon's meeting. My delegation finds it very difficult to make a statement without having direct reference to what was said here verbatim. Therefore, I was wondering, Madam President, if you could arrange with the Secretariat to have it taken from tape so that we could have the verbatim record in order to prepare for our statements.

The PRESIDENT: I think I informed the representative of Liberia yesterday that we were not going to have verbatim records for the afternoon meeting.

I shall now call on the Secretary of the Council.

Mr. RIFAI (Secretary of the Council): I shall certainly do my best to try to have the verbatim records out, but I was told also that whenever the Security Council meets simultaneously with the Trusteeship Council, we have very little hope of having the verbatim records the following day. However, I was hoping that it might be possible to try to produce the verbatim records of yesterday afternoon's meeting for tomorrow. I am trying to investigate that possibility. I shall certainly do my best and will let the representative of Liberia know about it as soon as I have some information.

Mr. McCARTHY (Australia): I should simply like to support what the representative of Liberia has said. The importance of these verbatim records needs no emphasizing. It is, of course, of intrinsic importance for my delegation and I think the point is very well taken.

Mr. SHAW (United Kingdom): Could I also inquire when the comments of the Administering Authority on petitions, to which I think you made reference yesterday, Madam President, are likely to be circulated?

The PRESIDENT: I call on the Secretary of the Council.

Mr. RIFAI (Secretary of the Council): I think that one of the petitions was circulated this morning. We have just received a letter from the Australian delegation pertaining to the second petition; that letter will be circulated tomorrow.

Mr. SHAW (United Kingdom): My inquiry simply related to the comments of the Administering Authority as far as they had supplied them on petitions already circulated.

The meeting rose at 1.5 p.m.