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PROVISIONAL VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THIRTEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SECOND MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 22 November 1967, at 10.30 a.m.

President:

Miss BROOKS

(Liberia)

1. Statement by the President
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Report of the Secretary-General on credentials
4. Letter dated 7 November 1967, addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of Australia, concerning the future of the Trust Territory of Nauru
5. Terms of reference of the United Nations Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of Nauru and New Guinea 1968

Note: The Official Record of this meeting, i.e. the summary record, will appear in provisional mimeographed form under the symbol T/SR.1323 and will be subject to representatives' corrections. It will appear in final form in a printed version.

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

The PRESIDENT: Before turning to the particular reason for holding this special session, and the provisional agenda, I should like to welcome the new representative of New Zealand, Ambassador Charles Craw, to this Council. Ambassador Craw is not new to the proceedings of the United Nations. He has attended previous sessions of the General Assembly and has been attached to his Government's Permanent Mission to the United Nations during this Organization's earlier days.

I should like also to welcome back to our midst the Australian representative. Ambassador Shaw was missed this past summer at the Council's regular session. Also on the Australian delegation I should like to welcome back to New York Mr. Kenneth Rogers, my colleague from the Visiting Mission to the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands earlier this year. He was also missed at the Council's thirty-fourth session.

I note that Ambassador Finger is here this time instead of Ambassador Anderson and I should also like to extend to him a warm welcome.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA (T/1671)

The PRESIDENT: Meeting as we are during a session of the General Assembly, and having only a four point provisional agenda with all the necessary documents before us, it is my hope that we will be able to complete the Council's work in the shortest period of time possible. The actual meeting scheduled for today, in my opinion, should be sufficient to complete the work before us.

I should like to draw the attention of members to the provisional agenda contained in document T/1671 and I would ask if there are any comments or statements concerning this provisional agenda. If there are no objections we will consider the agenda, as circulated in document T/1671, as adopted.

It was so decided.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CREDENTIALS (T/1672)

The PRESIDENT: I should like now to draw the Council's attention to the report of the Secretary-General on credentials which is contained in document T/1672. Are there any speakers to the Secretary-General's report?

Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In connexion with the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the credentials of representatives and members of the Trusteeship Council (T/1672) and the recommendations of the Secretary-General contained in paragraph 2 of the report, the Soviet delegation considers it essential to confirm its fundamental position of principle on the question of the unlawful occupation by the "Chiang Kai-shekists" of a place in the United Nations, including the Trusteeship Council, a place which by right belongs to the representatives of the People's Republic of China.

In accordance with this, the Soviet delegation cannot agree with that part of the recommendation presented to us which recognizes the representatives of Chiang Kai-shek as lawful representatives of China in the Trusteeship Council. We would emphasize once more that the lawful representatives of China in the United Nations and the Trusteeship Council can only be the representatives of the People's Republic of China.

We will abstain from the vote on the report of the Secretary-General on credentials of members of the Trusteeship Council.

Mr. LIN (China): The Secretary-General in his report on credentials has stated that the credentials of the representatives have been issued in accordance with the provisions of rules 14 and 16 of the rules of procedure. Therefore, the credentials of my delegation are not open to question.

With respect to the remark made by the previous speaker, I wish to say that the Government which I have the honour to represent, is the legitimate Government of the Republic of China and that the Republic of China is a founding Member of the United Nations and, by virtue of Articles 23 and 86 of the Charter, a member of the Trusteeship Council.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France) (interpretation from French): With regard to the Secretary-General's report on credentials may I say that the French delegation feels that the Chinese seat in the Trusteeship Council can only be occupied by the legitimate representative of that country, that is by a representative of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Mr. FINGER (United States of America): First of all, Madam President, I should like to express my appreciation for your kind words of welcome to the Council, and to say that I am both pleased and honoured to be here.

With respect to the report before us, it is clear that the Government of the Republic of China is the only Government recognized by the General Assembly of the United Nations as the legitimate Government of China, and is a founding Member of the United Nations. We therefore support the report of the Secretary-General on credentials.

The PRESIDENT: First, let me take note of the change in the United States delegation. I should like to state that this will be recorded in the Secretary-General's report on credentials. If there are no further comments I should like to suggest that the Council take note of the Secretary-General's report, including the amendment I have just mentioned, and of the observations made by the members of the Council.

It was so decided.

LETTER DATED 7 NOVEMBER 1967, ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRALIA, CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF THE TRUST TERRITORY OF NAURU (T/1669)

The PRESIDENT: We now turn to the main purpose of this meeting: a letter from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the Secretary-General, informing him that the Administering Authority has acceded to the request of the representatives of the Nauruan people for full and unqualified independence, to take effect from 31 January 1968. Thus it is with pleasure that I now give the floor to the representative of Australia to present this item.

Mr. SHAW (Australia): Madam President, may I first respond to the kind words of welcome you have addressed to me. I was absent from the last sessions of the Council because of ill-health and it gives me great pleasure to be back here again, sitting under your leadership.

Before addressing myself to the substance of the matter before us, I should like to introduce once again to the Council Head Chief Hammer de Roburt, the Chairman of the Nauru Local Government Council, who has appeared on many occasions before this Council. My Government and the Governments of the United Kingdom and New Zealand attach great importance to the Head Chief being present to address the Council, should it so wish, on behalf of the people of Nauru, on this important occasion. In addition, Mr. J.O. Ballard, Assistant Secretary of the Australian Department of Territories, will appear before the Council as Special Representative and will answer questions on behalf of the Administering Authority if required to do so by the Council. I should be grateful, Madam President, if, with the approval of the Council, you would invite these gentlemen to take their seats at the table.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ballard, Special Representative for the Trust Territory of Nauru, and Mr. de Roburt, Adviser to the Australian delegation, took places at the Council table.

Mr. SHAW (Australia): Members of the Council will recall that at its thirty-fourth session the Council expressed the earnest hope that agreement on the future of Nauru would be reached in the course of discussions between representatives of the Nauruans and the Administering Authority which were to be resumed at an early date. It gives me the greatest pleasure and satisfaction to report formally now to the Council that following the resumed talks between representatives of Nauru on the one hand and representatives of the Governments of the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia on the other, it has been agreed that Nauru should accede to independence on 31 January 1968. It was to enable the Administering Authority to make this report to the Council that I addressed to the Secretary-General my request for the convening of a special session of the Trusteeship Council. It is the earnest hope of the Joint Administering Authority that after hearing the statements which will be made at the present special session, the Trusteeship Council will recommend to the General Assembly that the Assembly should, in agreement with the Administering Authority and in consultation with the Nauruan delegation, decide to terminate the Trusteeship Agreement, thereby ending the trusteeship status of this Territory and giving effect to the agreement which has been reached between the Nauruan authorities and the Administering Authority.

It is necessary that the Trusteeship Agreement should be terminated at that time. Hence it was necessary that the Assembly should agree to do this during the present session. Hence, in turn, this special session of the Council had to be summoned speedily and at less than the usual period of notice. I express the gratitude of my Government to members of the Council for their agreement to meet at less than thirty days' notice.

Madam President, what is this Trust Territory of Nauru whose transition from dependence to independence we meet here to consider? I think the 1965 Trusteeship Council Visiting Mission's impression of the island captures the uniqueness of this new nation:

"On this island -- so isolated that it can be reached by air only after flying for many hours above the Pacific, so small that at first it appears to be just the reflection of the clouds in the ocean -- it is astonishing to discover

(Mr. Shaw, Australia)

as in an adventure story, a great industrial plant working rich phosphate deposits. The proceeds of these operations cover all public expenditure. Thanks to the phosphate, this tiny island lost in mid-ocean has houses, schools and hospitals which could be the envy of places with a very ancient civilization. Its citizens pay no taxes. Because of these favourable conditions and the spirit of mutual assistance characteristic of the inhabitants, poverty is virtually unknown in Nauru. There is a high standard of living: necessities and even many luxuries are imported. The stores and shops are well stocked with goods. Few people walk in this Territory, which has an area of 8 1/4 square miles and a circumference of 12 miles: there are over 1,000 motor vehicles (not to mention bicycles) for a total population of 4,914...." (T/1636, page 4, para. 2)

The Visiting Mission might have gone on to say that this prosperity is matched by equal advantages of a non-material but equally important nature. Here people live in peace and unity; here there is no repression, no political prisoners; here the rule of law prevails and all persons are equal before the law; and all enjoy unfettered access to all the benefits which their society, under their leadership, can provide.

But this state of affairs is of comparatively recent origin. After its first contact with the outside world in 1798 the island was visited only sporadically by whaling ships and traders. In 1888 the island was proclaimed a German territory. In 1900 it was discovered that there were extensive phosphate deposits on the island. Phosphate mining operations began in 1906, and in 1914, following the outbreak of hostilities in World War I, Nauru was occupied by an Australian military force. On 28 June 1919 under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles a Mandate for the administration of the Island was conferred on the British Crown and on 2 July 1919 the Nauru Island Agreement was signed by the Governments of the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. The arrangements made, as well as providing for the administration of the island, also vested the title to the phosphate deposits -- the rights of which had been purchased by the three Governments from the Pacific Phosphate Company -- in the British Phosphate Commissioners who were appointed by the three Governments.

During the Second World War the island was occupied and most of the industrial plant and buildings were destroyed. In 1943, 1,200 Nauruans were removed to Truk Atoll in the Caroline Islands. In September 1945 Australian forces returned to Nauru and on 31 January 1946 the survivors of the Nauruan people returned to their island home. It is for this reason that this date -- 31 January -- has a particular significance for the people of Nauru. I am sure it is a matter of very great satisfaction to the Council, as it is to the Nauruan people and the Administering Authority, that it has been possible to reach agreement that the date on which Nauru accedes to independence should be the anniversary of this memorable day.

On 31 January 1946 the position was that the population of Nauru had been reduced to only 1,280 persons. Since that time the indigenous population has risen until it is now approximately 3,100. And with this rise in population the standard of living of Nauruans has risen to the point where it is now one of the highest in the world. Indeed, the per capita income on Nauru is higher than the per capita income in Australia itself. If the price paid for the phosphate and the cost of production remain in much the same relationship as now, and the Nauruan people put aside the same proportion of their funds which they put aside last year for their long-term fund, this would, on the exhaustion of the phosphate deposits, stand at approximately \$US400 million.

But it is not only material prosperity which has so increased on Nauru in the last twenty years; there has been steady and impressive progress in all directions, including educational, cultural and political development.

Each year the Special Representative of Australia has told the Council of the progress in these fields which has been made since the previous session. Members of the Council will recall that at the thirty-fourth session of the Council the Special Representative, Mr. C.E. Reseigh, referred in particular to substantial increases in the numbers of children at school on Nauru, the doubling of the number of those at school in Australia on scholarships, the continued good health of the population and improvements in health services, yet greater increases in the standard of living following increased income from the phosphate industry, and to an active legislative programme in the Legislative Council.

At the thirty-fourth session of the Council, the Australian Special Representative reported that agreement had been reached between representatives of the Nauru Local Government Council and the three partner Governments on the future of the phosphate industry. The formal Agreement which embodies all the details of the Agreement between the Nauruans and the Administering Authority was formally executed on 14 November 1967 and copies will be circulated to members of the Council.

In general terms, the main features of this Agreement are that the capital assets of the phosphate industry will be purchased completely by the Nauruan people over a period of three years at an agreed valuation. During this period

the British Phosphate Commissioners will continue to produce the phosphate, but the net proceeds of the sale of the phosphate will go to the Nauruans, who will also have a directing role in the operation through the Nauru Phosphate Corporation, which will assume full control of the operation in 1970. During this period the production and sale price will be at a rate embodied in the Agreement, which is based on the assessed world market price for phosphate.

At the thirty-fourth session of the Council, the Australian Special Representative reported to the Council in considerable detail the stage which had been reached in discussions with the Nauruans on their political advancement, and informed the Council that these discussions would be continued.

These discussions did continue, as the Council was informed, and they were described by the Australian Minister for Territories, Mr. C.E. Barnes, in his statement on 24 October, to which I have already referred and which has been circulated in document T/1669. According to that statement, the partner Governments proposed an arrangement under which defence and external affairs responsibilities for Nauru would be exercised by Australia with the Nauruan Government otherwise having full autonomy. After deliberation, the Nauru representatives rejected this proposal. They said that they envisaged that Nauru should in the future maintain close links with all three Governments, and especially with Australia, but that the nature of the future links should be determined after independence had been attained.

The proposal of the Governments for Australia to undertake defence and external affairs responsibilities was a responsible one, put forward in the belief that this would be the best arrangement in the particular circumstances of Nauru. I believe that it was right that the proposal should have been made. Since it proved unacceptable to the Nauruan delegation, after due consideration, the Governments have not sought to persist in it. I believe that this also is the right course. We have followed for Nauru the policy of self-determination.

May I emphasize that the result of these discussions has been that, in accordance with the wishes of the Nauruans themselves, they will accede to independence without fetters or limitations of any kind. The future will be a matter for the Nauruans themselves. As the Minister for Territories said in his statement:

(Mr. Shaw, Australia)

"As to the future, after independence, the Nauruan delegation has foreshadowed close and friendly relations continuing between Australia and Nauru. It suggested the possibility of a treaty of friendship between the two countries. Australia also confidently looks forward to continuation of the close and friendly relationships which have characterized our association with the Nauruan people."

I should emphasize that the steps necessary to be taken by Australia under her internal constitutional arrangements have been taken. An Act of the Australian Parliament to provide for the transfer of authority has been passed. The Nauru Legislative Council has passed an ordinance to provide for a convention to adopt a constitution. Australian administrative control will cease when the constitution comes into force. Australia is providing the Nauruans with whatever assistance they need and seek for a smooth and effective hand-over of authority.

Nauru will then join the distinguished company of nations which has been brought to independence under the guidance and with the assistance of the Trusteeship Council. On that date, too, the obligation assumed by the joint Administering Authority under the Trusteeship Agreement approved by the General Assembly on 1 November 1946 will be discharged. We feel pride when we in Australia view our successful fulfilment of our international obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement and under the Charter of the United Nations. These to us are paramount considerations which we have observed with the most scrupulous respect.

No report to the Council on the conclusion of discussions on the future of Nauru would be complete if it did not pay tribute to the leader of the Nauruan people, Head Chief Hammer de Roburt, who is already well known to members of the Council. The Head Chief has shown over many years that he is deeply dedicated to the interests and service of the Nauruan people. We salute him as a leader of his people and we look forward to a close and friendly relationship with the Nauruan nation.

Madam President, may I suggest that you might care to ask the Head Chief to address the Council.

The PRESIDENT: I am sure that the Council will wish me to welcome Head Chief Hammer de Roburt to our proceedings once again. He has been the Head Chief of his people since 1955, and has been coming to sessions of the Council since 1962. He is a hard worker and is attentive to his duty. Thus he merits our heartfelt congratulations.

I should also like to welcome Mr. Ballard, the Special Representative, who has come, it seems to me, at a time of special significance, since it is in connexion with the independence of Nauru.

I now call on Head Chief Hammer de Roburt.

Mr. de ROBURT (Adviser to the Australian delegation):

Madam President, I thank you for your kind words of welcome.

Indeed, I thank all the representatives of independent and sovereign countries who are gathered here this morning to attend to duties, which this time are of a very special character, towards that smallest of all Trust Territories which has been under their benevolent care since 1947 -- that island nation of 3,100 people I have always been proud and honoured to represent here and elsewhere.

I wish to include in my opening words my very sincere thanks to the Australian Government for making this meeting possible in the first place, but particularly to the leader of our delegation, Mr. Shaw, for inviting me to join him at this familiar Council table as his Adviser on Nauru, and also to speak for that island. With that tribute I associate my colleague, Professor Davidson, of the Australian National University, who the Council may be aware, is no stranger to this kind of undertaking concerning Pacific island Territories, and whose services, as constitutional adviser we, the Nauruan people, are so fortunate to have.

It was on 6 November 1914 that Australia came to Nauru -- that is, fifty-three years and sixteen days ago today. Subtracting the approximately three years that Nauru was under Japanese occupation during the Second World War, it will be seen that Australian administration of Nauru covers almost exactly half a century. About two generations of Naureans have taken five decades to arrive at our present situation. As the period taken by a homogeneous group of a few thousand people with a single culture and heritage, one language and one religion -- Christianity -- on a small island to learn to look after themselves, manage and control their own affairs, I dare say that one could not really judge that the period has been short. Australian tutelage of those people, which it exercised also on behalf of the other two partner Governments of New Zealand and the United Kingdom, has been effective. They have a perfect right to be proud of their achievement on Nauru, although we have sometimes wondered whether they realized it.

(Mr. de Roturt)

Australian administration has conferred many benefits, not only on the generation living on Nauru today, but also on past generations. On their behalf, and in this world body, I thank that Government. We will always remember with sincere appreciation and gratitude the many benefits we have received from its administration, which has been well supported by New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

In the last two decades of the period to which I have been addressing myself, this very Council itself has sent to our island six Visiting Missions representing the United Nations. Those missions were instrumental in encouraging and fostering Nauru's progress towards independence, and their efforts, along with those of the Administering Authority, have resulted in what I hope I am right in regarding as today's happy and, I think, unique meeting of this Council.

The burdensome task of the Administering Authority for half a century -- and this Council's for a shorter but no less significant period -- is drawing to an end, as was designed, as was expected, and as it rightly should. In humility, but very warmly and sincerely, I thank all of you on behalf of the Nauruan people for a task well executed.

Our people's association with the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, although it will take a different form, will nevertheless remain friendly and close. Similarly, we wish to retain the closest possible ties with the Organization of which this Council is an important part, while recognizing that because of our small size the responsibilities of full membership are beyond us.

The representative of Australia has outlined to the Council the steps that have been taken to enable us to accede to independence on 31 January 1968, the date at which we ask that that change should take place, and which was referred to in the resolutions of the twentieth and twenty-first sessions of the General Assembly. I should like to add a little to what he has said.

During the past few months, while talks between representatives of the Administering Authority and the Nauruan people have been proceeding, a great deal of work has been done in the planning of our future government. The document entitled "Statement of Nauruan Delegation on Political and Constitutional Changes", which was placed before this Council last June, has formed the basis of that planning.

(Mr. de Roburt)

We have surveyed the various matters that will need to be included in our Constitution, and in respect of many of them have already placed detailed briefs in the hands of the law draftsmen. We have examined the existing administrative structure on Nauru and have completed a plan for its reorganization so that it may better serve the needs of an independent Government. As a result of that work, we have decided to create a number of new senior administrative posts, and are at this time beginning to select candidates for them. We have considered the character of our future relations -- that is, political, economic and social -- with the outside world. There is still a great deal of work to be done between now and 31 January 1968, but our planning has ensured that we shall enter upon our independence smoothly and without any disturbance to the process of government or to the rule of law.

As members of the Council will recollect, we have decided that our Constitution shall derive its legal force from an act of the Nauruan people themselves, assembled for that purpose in a constitutional convention. This week, as you have already been informed, Madam President, the Legislative Council on Nauru has adopted a Constitutional Convention Ordinance. Elections will be held for the convention on 16 December; and it is intended that it shall hold its first meeting at the beginning of January. That will ensure adoption of a constitution in ample time for it to be brought into force on 31 January 1968.

At this point I should refer, I think, to one of the unusual features of our planning. The Constitution under which we shall govern ourselves from 31 January will only in part be our permanent Constitution.

Provisions relating to fundamental rights and freedoms - one of the basic sources of protection offered to all who are living on Nauru, citizens and non-citizens alike - will be adopted in their final form; and certain other constitutional provisions will be treated similarly. But some other parts of the Constitution will be of a temporary character.

Most important, the powers that we intend to vest later in a president and cabinet will be exercised for a short initial period by a Council of State, whose members will exercise a joint responsibility for all major decisions. This arrangement avoids the difficulties that would be encountered in trying to work a ministerial system before the reorganization of the administrative structure had been completed. In addition, there are other parts of the Constitution which we think it proper to give the Constitutional convention a longer time to consider and discuss than would be possible before 31 January. In these cases, the temporary provisions will follow existing practice, with only a minimum of change. By these means, we believe that we have provided the basis for a smooth transfer of power within the time available to us. At the same time, we shall have laid the foundations for the more complete constitutional and administrative reorganization that we have already planned.

On all these matters to which I have referred, full agreement has been reached between the Administering Authority and the representatives of the Nauruan people. There is one subject, however, on which we still differ -- responsibility for the rehabilitation of phosphate lands. We fully accept responsibility in respect of land mined subsequent to 1 July 1967, since under the new agreement we are receiving the net proceeds of the sale of phosphate. Prior to that date, however, we did not receive the full net proceeds. For that reason, it is the Nauruan contention that the three Governments should bear responsibility for the rehabilitation of land mined prior to 1 July of this year. This, as I have said, is an issue on which we still differ from the three Governments.

(Mr. de Roburt)

It is not an issue relevant to the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, nor do we now wish to make it a matter of United Nations discussion. But I desire to place it on record here, since it is our firm determination that the new Nauruan Government shall continue to seek what is, in our opinion, a just settlement of our claims.

This, I think, virtually covers the range of subjects that it has seemed proper for me to bring before you on this occasion. Like the representative of Australia, Ambassador Shaw, I have sought not only to say something about the past, and to express the thanks of the Nauruan people for the help and friendship they have received over the years, but also to give you an outline of our present thinking and future intentions. I hope that the Council will have reached the conclusion that we are now ready to take the great step forward which is the deeply cherished aim of all dependent peoples -- to move from tutelage to sovereign independence. We ourselves have no doubts. We face our future as an independent State with the anxieties that are common to all peoples and Governments in this troubled world, but with confidence that we can acquit ourselves creditably, handle our affairs efficiently, and demonstrate that the responsibilities of independence were not placed upon our shoulders before the time was ripe. Nauru will be the smallest of the world's nations; but it will be one, we deeply believe, that will bring no discredit upon the world community.

In conclusion, I should like to associate myself with the request of the representative of Australia that this Council should recommend to the General Assembly that the Trusteeship Agreement for Nauru be terminated on 31 January 1968.

Mr. CRAW (New Zealand): Madam President, may I say at the outset how grateful I am to you for the very warm welcome you have given me on my return to the Trusteeship Council. I am glad to be back in this body and especially to be back in it on a very auspicious occasion--indeed, for me personally, an emotional occasion.

I am glad also to note that it seems to have shrunk a little since I was here seventeen years ago. But then of course it is true that it has largely done the

job for which it was established. I should also like to say that it is a pleasure for the New Zealand delegation to see Head Chief Hammer de Roburt here today, as well as Mr. Ballard, the Special Representative.

I am happy to note also that we have sitting with us a very distinguished New Zealander, Professor Davidson, who has played in his time -- I have known him for twenty years -- a very notable part in the constitutional development of the islands of the South Pacific; indeed I know from personal experience that on occasions he played a critical role. I am very glad to see him here. He played a particular role so far as New Zealand was concerned in connexion with Western Samoa and the Cook Islands.

Before I go into the substance and deliver the formal statement of my Government -- I do not want to bore the Council -- may I add just one or two personal remarks about Nauru.

Almost exactly twenty years ago I was New Zealand's representative on the Sub-Committee of the Fourth Committee which dealt with the Nauru Trusteeship Agreement. Later on, in 1953, if I remember aright, I had the great privilege of visiting Nauru for a few days and it was then that I understood why Captain Fern who discovered the island -- it is rather patronizing to say "discovered" because after all the Nauruans discovered it a long time before -- and other mariners who later visited Nauru found it a very pleasant place, indeed to such an extent that it was known as the "Pleasant Island". I am sure it was not with respect to Head Chief de Roburt; I am sure it was not because of the scenic wonders of Nauru compared to some of the other Pacific Islands, but because of its inhabitants who were charming; these are the words used by Captain Fern and other persons who went there later: "charming, sturdy, reliable and intelligent".

As one of Scots descent, and facing any Englishmen who happen to be around the table, this delights me because it is, I am sure, the reason why at one stage the Nauruans were known as "the Scots of the Pacific". It was not because of the usual English idea of the Scots; I believe, myself, that it was because they were charming, sturdy, reliable and intelligent.

I noticed at that time in 1953 the attempts being made to recover from the devastation of the war -- and let us make no mistake: Nauru was devastated and its peoples were cruelly taken away to other places, and many of them did not return. I noticed the work that was being done, and it is wonderful today to see that an independent Nauru is benefiting from that work.

In this connexion -- the Council will be glad to note that this is my last personal comment -- I should like to say something that is not very fashionable perhaps these days but which, I am very glad to note, was mentioned by Chief Hammer de Roburt, and that is the dedication of the Australian civil servants who went to Nauru and who worked there over the years. Often little was known about them except in criticism, but they worked very hard and with the very best intentions. It was no accident that when the Japanese invaded Nauru, the Administrator and four others, I think, because they had such respect for the Nauruans and such interest in Nauru, decided to stay on rather than leave. They could have escaped, but decided to stay, and were put to death later.

In 1953 when I was there, and from what I have seen since, I was able to see something of the work that the Australians, in harmony -- not always in harmony, but usually -- with the Nauruans were doing to rehabilitate the island, to put it back on its feet. And I should not like to let this opportunity pass without paying a tribute to their competence, their sense of justice and fairness, and, above all, their dedication to Nauru.

At the thirty-fourth session of the Trusteeship Council my delegation expressed the conviction that, in the discussions which were then about to take place between the Nauruans and the Administering Authority, arrangements would be reached which would be satisfactory to all concerned, including, of course, the United Nations. This forecast has, happily enough, proved accurate. As

members of the Council will already have gathered from the statements just made by the representative of Australia and the Head Chief of Nauru, the Nauruans held to their request for what they described as "free and unfettered sovereignty". So the result of the frank discussions, which were animated, let there be no mistake about this, by goodwill on both sides, is that the people of Nauru on 31 January -- and this is an anniversary which, as Mr. Shaw has mentioned, is an occasion about which there is deep emotion in their breasts -- will resume that sovereignty which passed from them, which was taken from them, which they lost eighty years ago. And it is entirely appropriate and fitting that this should be so.

This may be a small people in terms of numbers, but it is a unified, proud and able people, a people imbued with a powerful sense of being, in themselves, a quite unique human group.

In New Zealand -- this is an interpolation -- we possess a type of jade which is of rather rare occurrence; it is called "greenstone", and in the days before the Europeans went to New Zealand, and even now, it was highly prized, highly sought after. It was used for making ornaments for personal adornment and also for weapons. On one occasion a Nauruan Chief was confronted by an adversary in battle who was a warrior of gigantic proportions. But the small Nauruan Chief was not afraid and he said -- this is an English translation: "I may be small, but I am of the best quality of greenstone."

We who negotiated with the Nauruans can assure the Council of another quality of the Nauruan people, and that is tenacity. The strength of the desire of the Nauruan people and of their representatives to run their own affairs has never wavered over the years. They just want their independence. I recall that you yourself, Madam President, said in another place and on another occasion, when a Territory for which New Zealand had responsibilities was being given its freedom, that what the people say goes. We thoroughly agree with that.

In this case, no more and no less than in any other, my country was in no circumstances prepared to qualify or restrict the right of self-determination.

Now, what must the Trusteeship Council do at this point? In the terms of the Trusteeship Agreement entered into in 1947 by the three Governments of Australia, the United Kingdom and New Zealand, the Administering Authority undertook to take "all appropriate measures" with a view to the political advancement of the Nauruan people towards the basic objective set down in article 76, sub-paragraph (b), the promotion of "progressive development towards self-government or independence as may be appropriate to the particular circumstances and the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned". And I would suggest to the Council that this obligation has been carried out and carried out in full. We do not claim any particular virtue by reason of this. We believed twenty years ago, and we still believe, that the Trusteeship System offers a special opportunity for protecting the rights of dependent peoples and for promoting their political advancement.

We see the fruit of this experience in advancement in twenty years of stable life on Nauru, the progressive assumption of responsibility by the people, and now the certain prospect of an orderly hand-over of the reigns of government into the hands of those to whom, it has been recognized all along, the reins of government belong.

But with the obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement fulfilled, with the date set for the independence of Nauru, this Council, it seems to my delegation, has little to do but to recommend to the General Assembly -- perhaps not without a certain feeling of self-satisfaction, I would hope -- that the Trusteeship Agreement on Nauru should cease to be in force upon the accession to independence at the end of January next year.

(Mr. Craw, New Zealand)

For New Zealand, the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement will have a very special significance. On the day Nauru becomes independent, New Zealand will presumably cease to be a member of this Council.

That will be a moment of some nostalgia for those of us who have worked on trusteeship affairs. In 1945 at San Francisco, the then Prime Minister of New Zealand, Mr. Peter Fraser, presided over Committee 4 of Commission II, which was charged by the Conference with the responsibility of preparing the sections of the Charter dealing with the Trusteeship System. As was reported by the New Zealand delegation at that time:

"... the agreement reached at San Francisco on international trusteeship was not only one of the most important achievements of the United Nations Conference, but it also represented a notable advance in international thought on the administration of dependent peoples".

Two Territories for which New Zealand had a whole or a partial responsibility -- Western Samoa and Nauru -- were placed under the Trusteeship System. In the realistic dialogue which has gone on in these halls between the Administering Authorities, the international community and the people themselves, which has proved such a demonstrably effective means of promoting decolonization, we have played, we think, a small part both as an administering Power and, we believe -- we hope this will be conceded -- as a constructive critic, backed by our own experience, on developments in other Trust Territories. Eight of the former Trust Territories, including Western Samoa, have acceded to independence; a ninth, Nauru, is about to follow, and the remaining two will not be far behind. That is testimony in itself, surely, to the effectiveness of the proven methods of this Council.

I would conclude by noting the hope and expectation of my Government that links between New Zealand and Nauru will be maintained. As the New Zealand Prime Minister, the Right Hon. K.J. Holyoake, said in announcing the agreement on full and unqualified independence for the island:

(Mr. Craw, New Zealand)

"This is an occasion of great significance to the Nauruan people and on behalf of the Government and people of New Zealand I extend to them every good wish as they proceed towards independence.... We look forward to a continuation in the South Pacific of the long and friendly ties between Nauru and New Zealand."

I should like, finally, to add my own personal congratulations to the distinguished Head Chief and to the Nauruan people.

Mr. SHAW (United Kingdom): I should first like to preface my remarks by associating myself and my delegation with the welcome which has been extended from the Chair to the representatives of Australia, New Zealand and the United States -- Ambassador Shaw, Ambassador Craw and Ambassador Finger -- and say how glad my delegation is that they should be joining in our work in this Council for the first time at this thirteenth special session.

I should also like, on behalf of the United Kingdom delegation, to welcome here Head Chief Hammer de Roburt who for so long has been a familiar figure at our regular sessions. It is a source of special and particular gratification, given the reasons for our meeting here today, to welcome him at this special session.

Finally, we are glad to have with us the Special Representative, Mr. Ballard, and Professor Davidson, who has personally contributed so much on the plane of constitutional and legal expertise to the discussions and the negotiations which have led to the occasion for this special session.

It is almost exactly twenty years ago this month that the Trusteeship Agreement concerning Nauru, to which my Government together with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand are parties, was formally approved by the General Assembly and came formally into effect. The purpose of our meeting today, indeed the reason why it has been necessary to convene this special session of the Council, is to seek approval for the termination of that Agreement. The charges placed on the Administering Authority in pursuance of the obligations which it had accepted under the Trusteeship Agreement have been discharged, and it now remains only for the formal transfer of power to the independent Government of Nauru to take place some eleven weeks hence on 31 January 1968.

Among the various Trust Territories with which this Council has at one time or another been concerned, the history of Nauru is in many ways unique. From the earliest time since Nauru was first placed under the Mandate System of the League of Nations in 1919, formal responsibility for the obligations then undertaken to the international community, and thereafter continuously maintained, has been shared among the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. This tripartite responsibility between three members of the Commonwealth of Nations, so far from complicating or impeding the administration of the Territory, has in fact proved to be an eminently workable arrangement, partly because of the close degree of understanding between the three partner Governments and because of the similarity in their policies of decolonization, but mainly because, from the start, by agreement with the other two Governments which collectively under the Trusteeship Agreement of 1947 formed the Administering Authority, actual responsibility for the administration of the Territory has been vested in the Government of Australia.

Australia's association with Nauru goes back fifty-three years to the time when at the beginning of the First World War this former German territory was occupied by Australian military forces. The Territory has since then been under continuous Australian administration, first during the period of the League of Nations Mandate and in the last two decades under the Trusteeship System of the United Nations, as prescribed in Chapter XII of the Charter.

(Mr. Shaw, United Kingdom)

It is Australia which has regularly reported to this Council on behalf of the Administering Authority on the progress and development of the Territory and has received Visiting Missions in the Territory. My own Government and the Government of New Zealand, as jointly constituting with the Government of Australia the Administering Authority, have of course been closely and intimately involved at all stages in the negotiations of recent months, which have now reached a satisfactory and final agreement with representatives of the Nauruan people that Nauru should accede to independence on 31 January 1968. But it is due above all to Australia's efforts in the Territory over the years that the people of Nauru are ready to assume responsibility for the entire direction of their own affairs and to shoulder the responsibilities of full independence. It is right therefore that we should recognize and pay tribute to the devoted efforts of those Australian administrators who for more than half a century have worked in the Territory to this end.

But Nauru is also unique in other ways than in the mere form of the Administering Authority. The people of Nauru, numbering some 3,000 on an island barely four miles long, have not always had an assured and uninterrupted life of tranquillity in their homeland situated in the remoter reaches of the Pacific Ocean. They have known at first hand the dislocations and hardships of war and many of their people -- no less than those of many larger nations -- have experienced the sufferings brought in the wake of global conflict. During the last war the greater part of their people were transferred to an atoll hundreds of miles away from Nauru, and many of those who left did not survive to return. In still more recent years their future has at times been obscured by doubts and uncertainties when, against a possibility that eventually the island's phosphate resources might be exhausted, different ideas have been canvassed for resettling them in a new island home. But in the end the people of Nauru came to the conclusion -- and it is a conclusion which all of us here will readily understand -- that the island of Nauru, to which they have always belonged, must be their permanent homeland.

Nauru is indeed fortunately placed to set her course on the uncharted waters of independence. Indeed, it is perhaps no coincidence that the representative of New Zealand has reminded us, as we can see by reference to article 1 of the

(Mr. Shaw, United Kingdom)

Trusteeship Agreement, that Nauru on occasion has been known as "Pleasant Island". We believe that this indeed offers a good augury for her future. Her people enjoy a standard of living which would be the envy of many other still dependent Territories in the Pacific. The educational and medical facilities on the island are of a high standard. The Head Chief has already recalled that Nauru enjoys the unifying advantages of a single culture, a single language and a single way of life.

Finally, I think it is right and proper to mention that substantial sums have been set aside with prudence and foresight to provide for the time when Nauru's livelihood has to depend on sources other than the phosphate deposits, and those sums will continue to accrue and increase over the years. As the Council is aware, control of those deposits under the agreements recently ratified and reached earlier this year is due to pass very shortly into the hands of the Nauruan people. Many of those circumstances -- fortunate circumstances for the people of Nauru -- are largely attributable to the phosphate deposits with which nature has so generously endowed Nauru and to the operation of those deposits over the better part of a half century by the British Phosphates Commission, to which my Government nominates a representative. Although the United Kingdom, as I have said, has never been involved in the day-to-day administration of the Trust Territory, it is a source of satisfaction to us that in this way we have been able to play some positive role in its development.

Recent years have also seen the rapid promotion of political advancement and responsibility in the Territory. The Nauru Local Government Council and the Nauru Legislative Council now comprise a body of experienced representatives fully capable of managing the affairs of their country.

Although the final form of government, as the Head Chief mentioned in his statement, in independent Nauru is still to be determined in the Constitutional Convention of the Nauruan people, whose deliberations will lie entirely outside the purview either of this Organization or of the Administering Authority, the preliminary First Constitution to come into force at independence provides the framework for democratic forms of government. These temporary arrangements for a democratic form of government and constitution have been approved by the

elected representatives of the Nauruan people and they have been accepted by the three Governments which form the Administering Authority, without in any way prejudicing the work of the forthcoming Constitutional Convention.

It is perhaps right to mention that even after agreement had been reached with the Administering Authority on the request of the Nauruan people for unqualified independence, there was still until only a few weeks ago some element of doubt as to the actual practicability of attaining independence on the desired date and of completing all the necessary arrangements in good time. It is therefore a source of great satisfaction to my Government that the way is now clear for Nauru to accede to independence on 31 January 1968. That date is one which all of us in this Council know to be one of great importance to the people of Nauru, representing as it does the anniversary of their return and reunion in their homeland after the removals and dispersals of the Second World War.

I believe that it is clear from what I have said that the Administering Authority has sought faithfully to discharge the obligations which it assumed in regard to Nauru under the Trusteeship Agreement of 1947, and that it has done so:

"... in accordance with the provisions of the Charter and in such a manner as to achieve in the Territory the basic objectives of the International Trusteeship System". (T/Agreement/9, article 3, page 3)

My delegation considers therefore that it would be wholly proper, for this Council to recommend to the present session of the General Assembly that the Trusteeship Agreement in respect of Nauru should cease to be in force as from 31 January 1968.

It would be unfitting for my delegation to close its statement on this important occasion in the history of Nauru's association with the Council without paying tribute to the one man who, over the years, has come to personify the people of Nauru before Members of this Organization, Head Chief Hammer de Roburt. By his perseverance, his moderation and his devotion to the cause of Nauru, he has sought to bring about the solution for his people's future which he believes to be in their best interest. He has pursued this goal with skill and determination, and the occasion for this Special Session represents for him and for his people the culmination of their efforts.

My Government looks back with satisfaction to an association with Nauru over half a century and is proud to have played a part with the Governments of Australia and New Zealand in accomplishing the task which the Administering Authority now seeks to lay down. Relations between the three Governments and the people of Nauru have always been close and friendly. As Nauru moves forward into independence, mistress of its future and carrying the responsibilities of nationhood, we wish its people peace, security and prosperity.

On the different plane of relationships which must obtain between Britain and the independent State of Nauru, we shall look forward to a continuation of the warm and genuine ties of friendship and understanding which exist between our two countries.

Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Trusteeship Council just heard a statement from the representatives of the Governments of the Administering Authority -- Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom -- to the effect that these three Governments have agreed to meet the request of the representative of the people of Nauru for the granting to Nauru of full and unqualified independence on 31 January 1968, and that they, in this connexion, have agreed to take the necessary steps so that this session of the General Assembly of the United Nations may adopt a resolution for the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement on the attainment by Nauru of independence. The representative of Australia also said that they have agreed that from 31 January 1968 onwards, that is, the day when Nauru will gain independence, "the application of Australian legislation to Nauru will cease".

We understand this to mean that from that day forward the relations between Australia and Nauru will be based on full equality and sovereignty, and we take note of this statement by the Administering Authority.

We listened with great interest and satisfaction also to the statement made by Head Chief Hammer de Roburt, speaking on behalf of the Local Government Council of Nauru, who said that agreement has been reached between Nauru and the Administering Authority for the granting to Nauru of independence, which will not be accompanied by any conditions or reservations. The fact that a small

people, such as the Nauruan people, has won for itself the right to independence, the right to live as a sovereign nation, is evidence of the great and invincible force of national movements which will overcome all obstacles on the path of peoples to freedom and independence.

We live in an age of great social revolutions and changes, a century in which the peoples of the world, united under the banner of freedom and independence, progress and socialism, are waging a decisive attack against the forces of the old world, the forces of reaction, imperialism and colonialism, the forces of oppression and enslavement. On this path gigantic progress has been made already. In the last few decades more than seventy independent States have come into being in Asia, Africa, Latin America and other parts of our planet. The peoples of the world are throwing off the fetters of colonial slavery and are emerging into the scene of broad independent development. They are carrying on a decisive struggle for a new life and the right to be masters in their own land and to dispose of the wealth of their own countries.

The powerful impetus of the national liberation movement of the peoples against colonialism, supported by the forces of socialism and the revolutionary labour movement of the capitalist countries and all progressive forces of the world, has created favourable conditions for the struggle of the colonial peoples, including the smallest colonial peoples, for their freedom and independence.

It is precisely in the light of the fact that the fight of the Nauruan people for their independent existence developed in these favourable conditions that it has been crowned with success. The Soviet delegation, when the matter of Nauru was considered in this Council and in the General Assembly, always resolutely supported the demands of the Nauruan people in respect of the future status of the Territory and its constitutional structure in accordance with the wishes of the indigenous people. Now, when the Nauruan people have attained the goal which they set for themselves and are acquiring long sought-after freedom and independence, it is a great pleasure for me to convey, on behalf of the Soviet delegation, to the Local Government Council of Nauru, to the people of Nauru and their leaders, to Head Chief Hammer de Roburt and his colleagues present here, our sincere congratulations and our very best wishes for success in the progressive development of their country in its independent existence.

On 31 January 1968, the small people of Nauru, but a people with indomitable spirit, will become masters in their own land, and the island of Nauru will become independent. The whole history of the development of this people and their struggle for an independent existence, their right to self-determination, the fight for the right to be masters of their own fate and to construct their life as they see fit, without tutelage and protection from outside, deserves full respect. We welcome the persistence with which the people of Nauru and their representatives have tirelessly struggled to become free and independent and to achieve success in this.

We express our deep feelings of sympathy to the Nauruan people, and with all our heart we wish them every success and prosperity.

In the light of what we have said, the Soviet delegation will not object to the adoption by the Council of the draft resolution (T/L.1134) to the effect that the Council should recommend to the twenty-second session of the General Assembly that it resolve in agreement with the Administering Authority that the Trusteeship Agreement for Nauru approved by the General Assembly, shall cease to be in force upon the accession of Nauru to full and unqualified independence on 31 January 1968. We would add to the word "unqualified", which appears in the last line of paragraph 2 of the Liberian draft resolution, the word "full". We hope that the representative of Liberia would agree to accept this amendment to the text of the draft resolution which he introduced to the Council. That part of the sentence would therefore read as follows:

"... has agreed to meet the request of the representatives of the Nauruan people for full and unqualified independence."

This amendment is entirely in accord with the agreement between the Administering Authority and the representatives of the Nauruan people, as can be seen from document A/6903. We trust that the representative of Liberia will agree to this slight amendment.

We would like to express our conviction that the further development of Nauru as a sovereign nation will not be accompanied by any pressure from outside and that the just demand of the Nauruan people for the recognition that they have the inalienable right to sovereignty over the natural resources of that Territory will be fully respected, and that the requirement made by Head Chief Hammer de Roburt today for the restoration of the top-soil will be fully observed and respected.

(Mr. Shakhov, USSR)

In conclusion, allow me once more to congratulate the Nauruan people and their leaders on their attainment of independence. We wish them the best of success in their efforts to build a new life of progress and prosperity. The Soviet people have followed very carefully the struggle of the Nauruan people for freedom and independence and the news that the people of Nauru will soon achieve independence will be sincerely welcomed in my country. I wish you all the best of success, my friends, on this path of independent development.

Mr. FINGER (United States of America): The historian reviewing the Trusteeship Council's consideration of the development of Nauru will, I am sure, be struck by the fundamental differences between the factors considered crucial in discussions of Nauru and other United Nations discussions of other Territories. Conditions are such that it has been several years since the Council devoted extensive attention to social, economic, and educational development. The literacy rate is high and the per capita level of income is higher than that of Australia, which has administered Nauru on behalf of New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Nauru's concerns are rapidly becoming those of all modern countries with a high standard of living. This is due in substantial measure to increasingly enlightened management of the Island's sole known natural resource, with wise economic investment and diversification to assure continued dependable income. Indeed, citizens of the United States and other industrialized nations may be momentarily tempted to take solace in the fact that air pollution and water conservation are ongoing problems in the storied world of the South Pacific as well.

I cite those factors, not to disillusion our Nauruan friends about the complex yet challenging side of the continuing problems faced by man, but as a graphic index of what has already been accomplished by the Nauruan people under the guidance of the Administering Authority and the continuing scrutiny of the Trusteeship Council and the United Nations. Nor do I wish to slight the problems which have not been conquered and which will remain. Rather, I wish to emphasize that in the last few years we have been able to concentrate on the ultimate political status of Nauru, and that political development might have been accelerated had not the Nauruans, the Administering Authority and the Council been

(Mr. Finger, United States)

rightly concerned with the economic, social and political well-being of the people of Nauru when the phosphate deposits are exhausted less than three decades from now. Thus we have been concerned with the possible resettlement of the Mauruan people and with an equitable distribution and sensible use of the proceeds from phosphate sales.

Those questions are now behind us. The important decisions have been made and agreements reached. As must be the case in the near future with the remaining Trust Territory of New Guinea and the United States-administered Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Trusteeship Agreement for Nauru must come to an end. Coping with the problems peculiar to Nauru becomes primarily a Nauruan undertaking with a sympathetic world looking on and, where possible, ready and willing to share its experience. In this connexion it is particularly heartening that a close relationship has developed between the people of Nauru and the Government and people of Australia, and that both have expressed the strong desire that these close and friendly relationships should continue.

Members of the Council know the kind of leadership Nauru will have on its achievement of independence. Over a period of years Head Chief Hammer deRoburt has impressed members of the Council with his quiet but intense interest in the future of his people and with the persistence with which he has pursued their best interest as he sees it. We are confident that he will continue along those same lines.

Let me conclude by saying a special word on behalf of the Government and people of the United States. Nauru is a tiny island in what is to us a distant place and, as is true with many countries, developments there are not familiar to many of our people. Americans, nevertheless, are historically dedicated to the principle of self-determination, whether in Nauru, Africa or Asia. Americans, therefore, greet with a special welcome the application of that principle in Nauru. We wish the people of Nauru well.

Mr. LIN (China): The Trusteeship Council has been convened in Special Session to consider the termination of the trusteeship status of Nauru. This is certainly a development of historic importance to the Nauruan people. Since 1888 Nauru has been occupied by Germany, administered as a Mandate by His Britannic Majesty, conquered by Japan, and administered as a Trust Territory jointly by the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

Today Nauru is entering a new epoch of its history. On this the eve of the birth of the Republic of Nauru I have the honour to offer the sincerest congratulations and best wishes of the Chinese Government and people to the Nauruan people. The Republic of Nauru, perhaps among the smallest of nations, is certainly not the least. Its people are well educated, its resources are rich, and we hope it will always remain an island of peace and happiness. We are honoured by the presence in the Council today of Head Chief Hammer de Roburt. Through months of negotiations he has demonstrated outstanding qualities of diplomacy and statesmanship. He can be said to personify the Nauruan spirit of independence and freedom.

Finally, I take pleasure in stating that my Government is deeply appreciative of the services which the Administering Authority has rendered to the Trust Territory of Nauru. The Governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom have faithfully discharged the responsibilities which they undertook under the Trusteeship Agreement. They have contributed to the economic, social and educational advancement of the Territory and, more significantly, they have assisted the Nauruan people in developing the art of government and administration. The Chinese delegation is happy to join with other members of the Trusteeship Council in recommending to the General Assembly that the Trusteeship Agreement for Nauru should cease to be in force on 31 January 1968 when the Trust Territory of Nauru will become a free and independent republic. May 31 January 1968, a memorable day in Nauru's history, become and ever remain a day of pride to the Nauruan people.

Mr. GASCHIGNARD (France) (interpretation from French): The French delegation wishes to express its sincere congratulations to the Administering Authority and the representatives of the Nauruan people, in particular to Head Chief Hammer de Roburt whom we are pleased to see among us today, on the agreement which they recently concluded.

We are pleased to see that it is in a spirit of friendship with the Administering Authority that the people of Nauru is achieving its independence on a date which is very close to its heart.

To the Administering Authority, and in particular to the Australian Government, we would like to express our satisfaction at the wisdom with which it has guided Nauru along the road of political, economic and social progress, in accordance with the commitments made in signing the Trusteeship Agreement.

To the people of Nauru and its leaders, of whose wisdom and experience as well as the other qualities noted here by the representative of Australia we are aware, we address our best wishes for happiness and prosperity.

The French delegation will vote in favour of the draft resolution submitted by the delegation of Liberia, in spite of the reference to resolution 1514 (XV) of the General Assembly, which does not seem appropriate here. We believe the reference to the pertinent provisions of the Charter would have sufficed.

The PRESIDENT: The representative of Liberia has submitted a draft resolution on this item. I now give him the floor to introduce that resolution, which is contained in document T/L.1134.

Mr. EASTMAN (Liberia): May I also add a word of welcome to all new members of the Council and to Head Chief Hammer de Roburt on this memorable occasion. I would also like to welcome Mr. Ballard and Professor Davidson, whose fame and functions I can freely say have far preceded him even on my continent and in my country.

After the issuance of the statement on 24 October by the delegation of Australia that the Government of Australia had announced, on its own behalf and on that of the United Kingdom and New Zealand, the decision to grant full and unqualified independence to Nauru, we of the Liberian delegation welcomed the announcement with jubilation. Now having heard further statements to that effect, we experience further emotions of joy. We of the Liberian delegation have always felt -- and indeed we feel that way now -- that there are no people in the world who are not ready for independence. There are no people anywhere whose needs and aspirations can be better met than by themselves. For lack of freedom and independence, we are convinced, retards aspirations and deprives the individual of ambition.

For the Nauruan people one phase of their evolution has come to a happy end. We congratulate them and we hope for the best for their future. Yet, we are saddened -- although they have nothing to do with it -- that the same right has been denied our brothers in Rhodesia, Angola, Mozambique, South West Africa and South Africa.

The Government of Liberia also wishes to congratulate the Australian Government on its tutelage and is happy to note the statement made by the Australian Government that:

"If after independence the Nauruan Government wishes to continue close links with Australia as forecast by the Nauruan delegation at these talks, the Australian Government will be ready to respond and to consider sympathetically any request that may be made for assistance."

I am sure that as a new nation, perhaps Nauru may be able to use the experience of a friendly neighbour. We are also happy to note the statement made by Head Chief Hammer de Roburt this morning when he said:

"We wish to retain the closest possible ties."

This is a very happy occasion indeed, for although we realize that a lot of water has flowed under the bridge and there has sometimes been disagreement, that is a thing of the past, and we welcome these statements because we feel sure that Nauru can still use Australia and Australia can still use Nauru.

At this juncture it gives my delegation immeasurable pleasure to introduce resolution T/L.1134 which, when adopted, will relieve the Council of yet another responsibility and thereby lessen our work. It will also grant to the people of Nauru their rightful due under the Charter, and that as a free and independent people. The resolution reads:

"The Trusteeship Council,

"Recalling the Trusteeship Agreement for the Territory of Nauru as approved by the General Assembly on 1 November 1947,

"Recalling the conclusions and recommendations which the Trusteeship Council formulated at its thirty-second, thirty-third and thirty-fourth sessions concerning the future of the Nauruans,

"Recalling further General Assembly resolutions 2111 (XX) of 21 December 1965 and 2226 (XXI) of 20 December 1966,

"Mindful of the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations as well as General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 15 December 1960 containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

"Having considered the future of the Trust Territory of Nauru at its thirteenth special session,

"1. Notes the formal announcement by the Administering Authority that, following the resumed talks between representatives of the Nauruan people and of the Administering Authority, it has been agreed that Nauru should accede to independence on 31 January 1968;

"2. Welcomes the statements made in the Trusteeship Council by representatives of the Governments of Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as the Administering Authority and by the representative of the Nauruan people," --

Here I am proposing that we eliminate the "s" from the word "representatives" since Head Chief Hammer de Roburt alone spoke this morning on behalf of the Nauruan people. The resolution continues:

"that the Administering Authority has agreed to meet the request of the representatives of the Nauruan people for full and unqualified independence;"

If the representative of the Soviet Union had waited, we would have added the words "full and". It was our intention and this was a slight omission.

The resolution continues:

"3. Recommends that the General Assembly at its twenty-second session resolve in agreement with the Administering Authority that the Trusteeship Agreement for Nauru approved by the General Assembly on 1 November 1947 shall cease to be in force upon the accession of Nauru to independence on 31 January 1968."

I respectfully submit this resolution for your kind consideration, thereby fulfilling our function here in granting independence -- full and unfettered independence -- to any people or Territory which respectfully asks for it as the Charter provides.

The PRESIDENT: Are there any comments on the resolution?

Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): In the document as issued, the words "full and unqualified" will appear -- is that right? I understood the representative of Liberia to say the intention was to include them but they were omitted. Can we take it that "full and unqualified" will appear in the final text?

The PRESIDENT: That is correct. The words were omitted in fact owing to a typographical error. If there are no further observations, I should like to consider the resolution unanimously adopted. I hear no objections.

The resolution (T/L.1134), as amended, was adopted unanimously.

The PRESIDENT: The resolution having been adopted, it remains for me to congratulate, on behalf of the Council, all those concerned, who have persevered towards this happy moment in the history of the Nauruan people, and their representatives, especially Head Chief Hammer de Roburt and their Administering Authority for having achieved the goal of independence for Nauru in accordance with the principles of the Charter.

Again, I wish, on behalf of the Council, to express our warmest and best wishes to the people of Nauru for continued prosperity and success as a nation, and to express our appreciation to the Administering Authority for assisting the development of the people of Nauru which, at this stage, now divests itself of this international responsibility.

If there are no further statements from the delegation of Australia, I should like to ask Head Chief Hammer de Roburt and the Special Representative to withdraw from the table at this stage.

Mr. Ballard, Special Representative for the Trust Territory of Nauru, and Mr. de Roburt, Adviser to the Australian delegation, withdrew.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS VISITING MISSION TO THE TRUST TERRITORIES OF NAURU AND NEW GUINEA 1968 (Trusteeship Council resolution 2148 (XXXIV), T/L.1135)

The PRESIDENT: Now the Council's attention is drawn to the question of the United Nations Visiting Mission for 1968. In the letter dated 10 November 1967 (T/1670) the Permanent Representative of Australia has stated that it would be necessary, as a consequence of the imminent independence of Nauru, to amend the Council's resolution 2148 (XXXIV) of 29 June 1967 and to omit the reference to Nauru.

China and the United Kingdom have submitted a resolution which is contained in document T/L.1135.

Mr. SHAW (United Kingdom): The draft resolution set out in document T/L.1135, which my delegation wishes to introduce, is of a consequential nature only. At its 1321st meeting on 29 June 1967, the Council adopted resolution 2148 (XXXIV), which recorded the decision to dispatch a Visiting Mission to Nauru and New Guinea early in 1968, to be comprised of persons to be nominated by the Governments of France, Liberia, New Zealand and the United States of America; and it gave that Visiting Mission the necessary directions for carrying out its task. But as a result of the decision that Nauru shall accede to independence on 31 January 1968 it is, of course, no longer practicable or appropriate for the Visiting Mission to include Nauru in its itinerary.

The present draft resolution which is submitted to the Council therefore seeks to vary the Mission's terms of reference contained in resolution 2148 (XXXIV), as appropriate to that situation. The particular paragraphs of the draft resolution in T/L.1135 are clearly expressed and, I believe, need no further explanation on the part of my delegation. My delegation wishes to commend the draft resolution to other members of the Council for adoption.

The PRESIDENT: Are there any observations on this resolution?

Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): The Soviet delegation has acquainted itself with the draft resolution contained in document T/L.1135, which proposes the cancellation of an earlier decision of the Trusteeship Council to send a Visiting Mission to Nauru, and in the light of the forthcoming attainment of independence by Nauru on 31 January 1968 my delegation does not object to such an alteration.

Regarding the dispatch of a Visiting Mission to New Guinea, we should like to remind members of the Council that when the matter was considered at the thirty-fourth session the Soviet delegation proposed that a joint mission of the Committee of Twenty-Four and the Trusteeship Council be sent to these Territories. Unfortunately, the colonial majority over-ruled our proposal.

Therefore, my delegation at that time was obliged to abstain when the vote was taken on the relevant draft resolution. For the same reasons, my delegation cannot support paragraph 3 of this draft resolution. If the draft resolution was put to a separate vote, my delegation would be able to support the first two paragraphs, but would abstain from voting on operative paragraph 3.

The PRESIDENT: If there are no further comments and if the proposal of the representative of the Soviet Union is not a formal one, his statement will be noted in the record and we shall consider the resolution adopted. If I hear no objection, it shall be so decided.

It was so decided.

The resolution (T/L.1135) was adopted.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to take this opportunity to mention that no member State has as yet nominated its representative for the Visiting Mission just referred to. I would therefore ask those countries wishing to to be represented to be good enough to nominate their representatives as soon as possible.

I should now like to draw the Council's attention very briefly to a problem which I hope will not be insurmountable: the future composition of the Trusteeship Council.

At the 1322nd meeting of the Council on 30 June of this year, as President of the Council I drew the Council's attention to what would happen to its composition in the light of Article 86 of the Charter when Nauru achieves independence. As President, I requested the Council to consider this problem, and suggested that a legal study be made of the various aspects of the situation.

Now that we have adopted a resolution recommending termination of the Trusteeship Agreement for Nauru, I think it is appropriate that we request the Secretary-General to submit, at his earliest convenience, a legal study on the future composition of the Trusteeship Council.

Mr. SHAW (Australia): We welcome your having raised this matter here, Madam President. Although it is not yet before us formally, there has understandably been, as you know, considerable interest in the situation which will arise in the event that the Agreement we have been discussing today is finally terminated at the end of January 1968. I think the course you have suggested is a wise one -- that the first thing to do to clarify our minds is to seek from the Secretary-General his statement of the legal and constitutional position of this Council as he sees it.

Might I make one suggestion: We understand that this matter has been given thought within the Secretariat during the recent past. The formulation of a legal opinion need not be a matter that would take much time, and I think it would be useful if members of this Council could have that document before them at our next meeting, which, I presume, would be in a day or so, to adopt our report.

Mr. FINGER (United States of America): I wonder whether it might be possible for the Under-Secretary to give us some indication as to when we might have that document and therefore be in a position to meet again to discuss it.

Mr. DJERMAKOYE (Under-Secretary for Trusteeship and Non-Self-Governing Affairs)(interpretation from French): The Secretariat has taken due note of the ideas just expressed by members of the Council; and we believe we shall be able, at the next meeting of the Council, to make available the document requested and to make a statement on that subject.

The PRESIDENT: If the members of the Council have no objection, we could meet again at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

Mr. SHAKHOV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics)(interpretation from Russian): I do not think it would be practical -- in fact, I do not think it would be possible -- to meet at 4 o'clock today to discuss such an important matter as this. I would request you, Madam President, not to convene the Council this afternoon. We could meet at a later time.

The PRESIDENT: I have just consulted with the Secretariat, and I understand that the documents will be circulated today. Therefore, we could meet tomorrow morning. If I hear no objection we shall meet at 10.30 tomorrow morning.

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 12.55 p.m.