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Agenda item 4

CONDITIONS IN THE TRUST TERRITORY OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

Report of the Drafting Committee

1. At its 1557th meeting, held on 27 May 1983, the Trusteeship Council appointed a drafting committee composed of the representatives of France and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to propose, on the basis of the discussions which had taken place in the Council, conclusions and recommendations on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and to make recommendations concerning the chapter on conditions in that Territory for inclusion in the next report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council.
2. The Drafting Committee held three meetings. It had the benefit of the assistance of representatives of the Administering Authority.
3. In the light of the general discussions in the Trusteeship Council on conditions in the Territory, the Committee drafted a number of conclusions and recommendations which it considered as reflecting the opinions of the majority of the members of the Council and which are set out in the annex to the present report.
4. The Committee recommends to the Trusteeship Council that it adopt the revised working paper on conditions in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (T/L.1235 and Add.1) as the basic text for the chapter on conditions in that Territory to be included in the next report of the Trusteeship Council to the Security Council.
5. The Committee also recommends that the Trusteeship Council adopt the conclusions and recommendations set out in the annex and include them at the end of the report.

Annex

DRAFT CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. GENERAL

Land and people

1. The Council takes note of the concern expressed once again, to the 1982 Visiting Mission, by representatives of the Trust Territory about the possible dangers of the dumping of nuclear waste in the Pacific region. The Council notes in particular the statements concerning this matter made by Governor Pedro P. Tenorio, Mr. Benigno R. Fitia, President of the House of Representatives and Senate President Olympio T. Borja of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands during the 1545th meeting of the Council (see T/PV.1545).
2. The Council notes that the United States Government has reiterated that it does not intend to dispose of nuclear wastes in the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands or in the adjacent waters. The Council takes note of the assurances given by the Administering Authority that the competent agencies have taken and continue to take this problem into consideration.
3. The Council notes that the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature recently passed a law declaring a nuclear and chemical-free zone in and around the Northern Mariana Islands.
4. The Council welcomes the establishment of ground stations for satellite communications throughout the Trust Territory. The Council notes with satisfaction the establishment of new installations at Ponape and Truk and the entry into operation of the ground stations on Palau and the Marshall Islands. The Council notes that the Administering Authority and the constitutional Governments concerned intend to develop the private telephone communications system and the connection of those systems to the ground stations network.
5. The Council takes note of the concerns expressed by petitioners about the leasing of land by the Administering Authority on several of the Northern Mariana Islands and especially on Tinian. The Council notes that a lease agreement has been signed between the United States and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands and that the latter undertakes to arrive at just and equitable solutions with the landowners concerned.
6. The Trusteeship Council notes that the Administering Authority is continuing its efforts to return the balance of public land to the Government of Palau, which will be accomplished when homesteading procedures have been developed. All of the other public land in the Trust Territory has been turned over to the respective constitutional Governments.

Population movements

7. The Trusteeship Council reiterates its serious concern about the quality of medical care currently available to the displaced people of Bikini and Enewetak and regrets once again that the health programme proposed under United States legislation has not been implemented.
8. The Council takes note of the approval, in 1982, by the United States Congress of a supplementary appropriation of \$21.4 million for the resettlement of the people of Bikini and of a number of practical measures taken by the Administering Authority to assist and compensate nuclear test victims and dispel their fears.
9. The Council reiterates its concern that any resettlement proposals for the people of Bikini and Enewetak should take fully into account any remaining health hazards and recommends that the Administering Authority continue to ensure, as a matter of priority, that all necessary measures are taken to remove the radiation hazards threatening the inhabitants of the Marshall Islands.
10. The Council recalls that the wish of the Bikinians of Ejit is to be resettled on another island; failing such resettlement, it urges the Administering Authority to develop the installations on the island of Ejit, in accordance with the wish expressed by the people of Bikini to the Visiting Mission.
11. The Council, like the Visiting Mission, hopes that the Administering Authority will interpret its obligations to these inhabitants generously, particularly in monitoring the health of the population and according compensation, in view of the as yet inadequate data on the long-term effects of radiation on both humans and the environment.
12. The Council hopes that the negotiations under way between the Administering Authority and the Marshallese authorities on the establishment of a Bikinians' compensation fund and referral of complaints to the competent courts will be speedily concluded.
13. The Council notes that a mission composed of researchers and scientists is currently studying the possible rehabilitation of the island of Bikini.
14. The Council, taking up the conclusions of the Visiting Mission to the Territory, reiterates its concern over the social, cultural and economic difficulties of the people living on the island of Ebeye arising primarily from the over-population of that island. The Council has taken note of the Administering Authority's intention to improve living conditions on the island and to grant an appropriation of \$6 million and calls on the Administering Authority to continue to give a high priority to the solution of the problems faced by the inhabitants of Ebeye.
15. The Council has taken cognizance of the report of the Visiting Mission on the sit-ins by the landowners of Kwajalein and Roi-Namur. The Council takes note of the statements of the Administering Authority that the incidents which had occurred in July and August 1982 between the landowners in Kwajalein Atoll and the Government of the Marshall Islands had been settled.

16. The Council urges the Administering Authority to spare no effort to arrive at universally satisfactory solutions to the specific problems raised by the United States military installations on Kwajalein Atoll and to avoid a repetition of incidents such as the sail-in.

War and post-war damage claims

17. The Trusteeship Council reiterates the concern expressed at its previous sessions that war damage claims have still not been fully settled, as determined by the Micronesian Claims Commission. It notes that this question was raised regularly before the Visiting Mission throughout its stay in the Territory. In this connection, the Council welcomes the statements of the Administering Authority that all the parties are continuing their efforts to settle the claims under Title I, that nearly 30 per cent of the \$34 million awarded has been paid and that all claims under Title II have been settled.

18. The Council, while taking note of those statements, wishes, like the Visiting Mission, to recall the concern expressed by the population of the Territory, which is shared by the Visiting Mission, that the sums still outstanding under Title I be paid in full as soon as possible and, in any event, before the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. It urges the United States and Japan to resume negotiations for the resolution of this issue.

B. POLITICAL ADVANCEMENT

General political structure

19. The Trusteeship Council welcomes the continuing devolution of administrative responsibility for the Trust Territory to the constitutional Governments and the confidence placed by the Administering Authority in the abilities of those Governments to handle all aspects of the governmental process.

20. The Council notes with satisfaction that the Administering Authority is continuing to encourage the constitutional Governments to expand and strengthen their participation in regional and international organizations and to maintain links with other Governments on matters of common interest.

TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENT

Legislature

21. The Council reiterates its satisfaction at the performance of the legislative bodies of the Trust Territory. It notes with interest that the Asian-Pacific Parliamentary Union (APPU) met in Ponape in 1982 and will do so again in Saipan in 1983.

22. The Council notes that the constitutional Governments which signed the compact of free association with the United States would, assuming majority approval of the compact by their respective electorates, be required to act on the compact in accordance with their own legislative and constitutional processes in order to bring it into effect.

23. The Council notes with satisfaction that, with the agreement of the the Administering Authority, the constitutional Governments have signed fisheries and aid agreements with other nations and regional organizations.

24. In keeping with its view that governmental responsibilities should be transferred increasingly to the Trust Territory administration, the Council greatly welcomes the fact that all four constitutional Governments are now fully organized and operating according to their own freely adopted constitutions.

Civil service

25. The Council notes that the Administering Authority provided advice and counsel to the Palauan Government concerning the events relating to a strike of government employees in September 1981. It expresses the hope that a repetition of those unfortunate events can be avoided.

26. The Council notes with concern that the minimum hourly wage in Palau has more than doubled in the space of two years and that in 1981/82, 84 per cent of its operational budget was absorbed by personnel costs. The Council reiterates its view that while authority and responsibility for development of the economy of the Trust Territory now lies with the constitutional Governments, the Administering Authority should continue to assist the constitutional Governments to stimulate the creation of private sector employment.

27. The Council notes that in pursuance of its policy of transferring administrative responsibility to the constitutional Governments, the Administering Authority reduced its headquarters staff in 1982 by 200 employees.

Political education

28. The Council notes with satisfaction that up to the end of 1982, the Administering Authority had provided a total of \$375,000 to the three constitutional Governments for political education programmes in advance of the plebiscites on the compact of free association and that more financial assistance would be forthcoming.

29. The Council welcomes the findings of the 1982 Visiting Mission to the Trust Territory that the local population appeared well informed about the political issues which affected them and the state of negotiations with the United States on their future.

30. The Council further welcomes the fact that complete freedom of expression is enjoyed by the inhabitants of the Trust Territory.

31. The Council notes with satisfaction the view of the Visiting Mission to Observe the Plebiscite in Palau in February 1983 that the political education programme in Palau had been useful and effective and that the broad issues documented in the compact, as well as the wording of the ballot paper, had been generally understood.

32. The Council endorses the emphasis given by the Mission to the importance of conducting adequate programmes of political education prior to the forthcoming plebiscites in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. The Council stress that the programmes should cover both the economic and political issues.

33. The Council notes with satisfaction the statement by Mr. Takesy of the Federated States of Micronesia that the programme for the 21 June plebiscite was proceeding well and would be completed by the end of May.

34. The Council welcomes the extent to which the constitutional Governments are able to play a role in the execution of political education programmes. The Council believes that it is essential that voters be fully aware of the choices before them.

Decentralization

35. The Council welcomes the continuing efforts by the Administering Authority to transfer responsibilities to the constitutional Governments as they are prepared to accept them.

Judiciary

36. The Council notes with satisfaction that the juridical systems in the Trust Territory are now fully established and functioning.

C. ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT

General

37. The Trusteeship Council notes with regret that Micronesia is still, to a large extent, economically and financially dependent on the Administering Authority. As the 1982 Visiting Mission pointed out, the structural imbalances in the economy have not been significantly reduced. The Council therefore feels that economic and financial assistance is essential in order to maintain the present level of living of the population and the functioning of the existing administrative structures.

38. The Council notes the efforts made by the Administering Authority to assist the local Governments in developing their economic activities. It takes note of the Administering Authority's assurance that assistance to the constitutional Governments will be greater in the post-Trusteeship period. It welcomes the overall increase of 9 per cent in the budgetary allocation to those Governments, the appropriation of \$US 18.4 million to continue the capital improvement programme, the progress achieved in the operations of the Economic Development Loan Fund and the encouragement given to foreign investment, exports and tourism.

39. The Council notes that some of the funds allocated under the capital improvement programme have had to be diverted to meet immediate needs for cholera control in Truk. It hopes, however, that the projects which have been held up as a result of this can be completed.

40. The Council regrets that implementation of the second phase of the capital improvement programme has not begun. In that connection, the Council hopes that the Administering Authority will carry out its expressed intention of providing substantial budgetary support through the compact of free association, which will enable the Governments, including those of the outer islands, to determine and meet their own priorities in development programmes. The Council notes that most of the projects under the five-year capital improvement programme are now completed or under way.

41. The Council endorses the conclusions of the Visiting Mission and wishes to lay stress on the problems of infrastructure, transport and outer island development, and on the need for the speedy introduction of a viable statistical system.

42. While noting that the primary responsibility for the development of the Trust Territory rests with the four constitutional Governments and that efforts to that end have already been undertaken, the Council considers that an essential prerequisite for the encouragement of inward investment is the preparation of an overall development programme. The Council urges the Administering Authority to give the matter serious consideration.

Public finance

43. The Council notes that in 1981/82 the Administering Authority provided the constitutional Governments with a total of \$98.6 million. Federal categorical grants for the same period totalled \$21.3 million.

44. The Council regrets that certain federal programmes have been reduced or even discontinued, in keeping with general United States policy or in anticipation of termination of the Trusteeship Agreement. It notes, however, that the number of health and education programmes has been increased and earnestly hopes that most of those programmes can be continued under conditions decided upon as part of the negotiations on the future political status of the Territory.

45. The Council notes that the constitutional Governments have prepared their own budgets and now have the opportunity to determine their own priorities, taking into account certain budgetary ceilings.

46. The Council joins the Visiting Mission in noting a desire on the part of the various Micronesian entities, and in particular the financial management services, to expedite the process of establishing separate financial management systems for each Government.

47. The Council endorsed the conclusions of the Visiting Mission to the effect that the system of taxation remained heavily dependent on income tax. The Council shared the view of the Visiting Mission that it would be advisable to levy import duties, especially on goods which compete with locally produced items and on non-essential goods; that could become an important new source of revenue which could help to correct the external trade imbalance of the Trust Territory, reduce the growing dependence on imports and encourage local production and industry.

Assistance from international institutions and other countries

48. The Council welcomed the continuing development of relations between the Governments of the Territory, on the one hand, and the States of the region, the international organizations and the various regional and international programmes, on the other.

49. The Council noted with satisfaction that the Trusteeship Territory had received assistance from several United Nations institutions and organizations, including the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Multi-National Inter-Disciplinary Development Advisory Team, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) and the World Health Organization (WHO), particularly during the cholera outbreak in Truk. Furthermore, the South Pacific Commission (SPC) and the South Pacific Bureau for Economic Co-operation as well as other regional organizations had provided economic, social and technical assistance in various fields and for a number of projects.

50. The Council noted that the Federated States of Micronesia and Japan had signed a technical co-operation agreement and that the Marshall Islands and Japan had signed a fisheries agreement.

51. The Council stated that international assistance was and would continue to be of considerable importance to the economy of Micronesia; in that connection, it was pleased to note that the Administering Authority encouraged the Governments of the Territory to establish contacts and to expand relations with bilateral and multilateral organizations and with third countries.

Credit

52. The Council noted with satisfaction that the Economic Development Loan Fund was fully operational through the central banks in each government centre.

53. It noted that loan funds totalling approximately \$6 million were available for the Territory as a whole. Those funds would be shared in the following way: 56.5 per cent for the Federated States of Micronesia, 25 per cent for the Marshall Islands and 18.5 per cent for Palau.

54. It noted the recent approval of loans amounting to \$236,000 for small and medium-sized enterprises, for the purpose of initiating or improving operations in the field of agriculture and tourism. The Council expressed the hope that the programme would be expanded.

Land

55. The Council hoped that the administrative and legal difficulties encountered in the transfer of certain public lands in Palau would be resolved in the near future.

56. It noted that, in Palau, the President and other officials had pointed out to the Visiting Mission that the public land should be transferred to the duly elected Government, when the new Government in Palau was ready to assume responsibility.

57. The Council noted the concern expressed by the representative of the Federated States of Micronesia with regard to the payment of claims concerning the use of certain lands by the Administering Authority. It hoped that a speedy and satisfactory solution for the inhabitants concerned would be found.

58. The Council shared the view of the Visiting Mission that the cadastral survey of private lands should be continued in order to facilitate the settlement of land disputes, and that arable public land should be used for the development of commercial agriculture, which could become an important source of export earnings, revenue and employment.

Agriculture and livestock

59. The Council, having noted that responsibility for agriculture had been transferred to the constitutional Governments, reaffirmed that the Administering Authority none the less had a duty to help them to expand agricultural and livestock production as a matter of priority.

60. The Council, like the Visiting Mission, noted that, in the five-year development plans which had been or were being formulated, the various territorial entities were according high priority to the need to developing their food, agriculture and livestock sectors with a view to reducing dependence on food imports and achieving greater self-sufficiency.

61. While the Council recognized the obstacles to agricultural development, it encouraged the Governments of the Territory and the Administering Authority to continue their efforts in that field in order to meet the needs of the population and to promote export-oriented agriculture.

Marine resources

62. The Council noted that the development of the marine resources of the Territory deserved to be given high priority in the future development of Micronesia. To that end, it encouraged not only the development of fisheries complexes wherever feasible but also the development in the outer islands of the infrastructure, including storage facilities and power and transportation systems, as well as the establishment of co-operatives, the institution of technical training programmes and the organization of marketing arrangements.
63. The Council noted the Administering Authority's intention to endorse the efforts of the constitutional Governments to develop their fishing industries and its undertaking to extend its assistance, even after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, to ensure respect for the rights of the Micronesians over the 200-mile zones.
64. The Council took note of the wish expressed on several occasions by the representatives of the Northern Mariana Islands that the Northern Marianas Commonwealth should be able to exercise its full jurisdiction over all the living and other ocean resources within the 200-mile exclusive economic zone.
65. The Council expressed the hope that the dispute between the United States and the Mariana Islands could be settled in the best interests of the Mariana Islanders so that the latter would not be discriminated against or penalized vis-à-vis the inhabitants of the other Micronesian entities.

Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea

66. The Council noted that the constitutional Governments of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands hoped to sign the Convention on the Law of the Sea, even before the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, and thereby benefit from the protection of their 200-mile economic zone, as well as from the other provisions of the Convention when it entered into force.
67. The Council noted that the Administering Authority would have no objection to the signing of the Convention by the three constitutional Governments of Micronesia after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

Tourism

68. The Council stressed once again that Micronesia could be considered to be an attractive region for tourists. It noted the remarkable growth of the tourist industry in the Northern Mariana Islands - although the number of visitors had declined by 4 per cent between 1981 and 1982 - and the more modest progress achieved in other parts of the Territory.
69. The Council welcomed the admission of the Governments of the Territory to the Micronesian Regional Tourism Council. It noted the institution of new charter

flights from Japan to Saipan, which would give a renewed impetus to tourism throughout the Territory, and the important efforts made by the Mariana Tourism Bureau.

70. The Council endorsed the conclusions of the Visiting Mission to the effect that the development of tourism had to be gradual and carefully planned in order not to overwhelm the small and fragile economies, social structures, environment and cultural traditions of the Territory.

Light industry

71. The Council reiterated its concern at the poor development of small industrial enterprises in the Territory.

Transport and communications

72. The Council noted, as had the Visiting Mission, the serious efforts made by the various entities and the Administering Authority to develop an adequate system of sea, air and land transport, the basis for the development of the Territory.

73. The Council noted, however, that, during the visit of the United Nations Visiting Mission, the Micronesians had called for better and more regular sea transport so that the outer islands could be integrated into the economy of the Territory as a whole. The Council considered that that problem deserved particular attention.

74. The Council welcomed the development of air links and the construction of new air strips, especially in the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. It hoped that that programme could be brought to a speedy conclusion.

75. It noted the improvements in the road network, particularly in Koror and Ponape. It considered, however, that much remained to be done in order to provide a minimum road network in all the main population centres as well as in the outer islands, whenever possible. To that end, in addition to public works, encouragement should be given to community and self-help programmes.

76. The Council noted with satisfaction the inauguration of satellite ground stations in Palau and the Marshall Islands, and the gradual putting into service of all the stations in the Federated States of Micronesia.

D. SOCIAL ADVANCEMENT

Medical and health services

77. The Council notes that all activities relating to the co-ordination and administration of health services in the Trust Territory have been transferred to the constitutional Governments.

78. The Council notes with satisfaction that the number of doctors in the Trust Territory has increased and that the constitutional Governments are encouraging students to go into the medical field. The Council urges the Administering Authority to continue to offer financial and administrative assistance in this area.

79. The Council welcomes the emphasis given by the Administering Authority to the improvement, renovation and maintenance of hospital facilities in the Trust Territory. It notes with particular satisfaction that the new hospital in Yap is now fully operational; and that sites have been selected for new hospitals in Saipan and Majuro to be constructed with funds provided by the Administering Authority.

80. The Council welcomes the efforts of the constitutional Governments and the Administering Authority to eradicate the cholera epidemic in Truk state. It notes in particular the contribution of WHO and UNICEF in containing the disease. The Council notes with satisfaction that the Administering Authority is providing some \$8.5 million to complete sewer and water projects and to improve sanitation and health education.

81. The Council notes with satisfaction the continuing efforts by the Administering Authority, as described in the report of the 1982 Visiting Mission, to improve health standards in the Trust Territory. The Council notes with particular satisfaction that between 1970 and 1980, health care appropriations had almost doubled to \$8.1 million per annum.

82. The Council associates itself with the view expressed by the Visiting Mission that both the Administering Authority and the constitutional Governments should give priority to maintaining and expanding dispensary services in the Trust Territory, particularly away from state centres. The Council endorses the Visiting Mission's opinion that to allow dispensaries to close could prove counter-productive in that it could increase the number of patients referred to hospitals.

83. The Council particularly welcomes the announcement by Mr. Tenorio of the Northern Mariana Islands that the construction of a new health-care centre will commence soon, with \$10 million in financial assistance from the Administering Authority.

Community development

84. The Council notes with regret that community activities in the Trust Territory continue to rely too much on external aid. The Council reiterates the importance it attaches to the need for the inhabitants of the Trust Territory to participate more actively in community projects, and to make more use of existing facilities.

85. The Council notes with satisfaction the participation of the Administering Authority in the activities of the civic action teams, in the construction of various types of infrastructure projects. It urges the Administering Authority to continue to render financial and manpower assistance to those projects.

86. The Council emphasizes the importance of continuing efforts in the area of family planning, taking into account social and cultural traditions prevailing in the Trust Territory. It notes from the report of the 1982 Visiting Mission that ESCAP was prepared to help frame a family planning programme and urges that this be explored.

Labour

87. The Council notes with considerable concern that the unemployment problem in the Trust Territory appears to be worsening. A particular worry to which the Council has alluded in previous reports is the imbalance between those employed in the public sector and those in the private sector. It urges the Administering Authority and the constitutional Governments to give high priority to solving this problem and to concentrate in particular on creating jobs in the outer islands so as to prevent migration towards the state centres with all the attendant problems that this can create.

Housing

88. The Council notes with concern the information contained in the report of the 1982 Visiting Mission that the housing loan programme for the Federated States of Micronesia begun in 1977 was being discontinued. The Council hopes that the Administering Authority will continue to give high priority to housing programmes in the Trust Territory and will make due allowance for local construction standards and materials in authorizing building grants.

Youth questions

89. As in previous years, the Council continues to be concerned about youth problems in the Trust Territory and the increasing incidence of juvenile delinquency. It regrets that youth-related programmes are being phased out, but is encouraged to learn that the Administering Authority recognizes the problem as an important one requiring continued technical assistance and support from the United States.

90. The Council notes with satisfaction that the funding under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act has been increased. Particularly gratifying too is the success of the "Outward Bound" project operating in Ponape, Truk and Palau, which has contributed substantially to the rehabilitation of young offenders.

Public safety

91. The Council welcomes the assurance of the Administering Authority that it will continue to provide the constitutional Governments with assistance in the areas of public safety and order, as well as training to their juridical, legal and police agencies.

92. In particular, the Council welcomes the Administering Authority's undertaking to continue to support regional and international co-operation in the area of narcotics, anti-fraud, and anti-smuggling training. It notes in particular the assistance provided by ESCAP and the South Pacific Commission (SPC) in these fields.

E. EDUCATIONAL ADVANCEMENT

General

93. The Trusteeship Council congratulates the Administering Authority for the sound educational foundations it has laid in the Territory and for providing a system of free and universal primary education.

94. The Council notes with regret, however, that perennial problems such as inadequate funds and shortages of qualified teachers, school supplies and accommodation, remain. The Council also takes note that these inadequacies tend to be most pronounced in the outlying areas.

95. The Council continues to be concerned about the deterioration of school facilities and building maintenance standards in the Territory. The Council is pleased to note that the Administering Authority considers that the maintenance of existing facilities should rank amongst the highest priorities and that training in maintenance work should be written into educational projects.

96. The Council reiterates its concern that social problems among unemployed youth, both university graduates and school drop-outs, continues to be widespread. The Council recommends that incentives might be considered to encourage young people to pursue studies which are relevant to conditions in Micronesia and would be likely to provide opportunities for employment.

Primary and secondary education

97. The Council notes that the Administering Authority shares its concern about the deterioration of primary school buildings, particularly in the Federated States of Micronesia.

98. The Council once again urges the Administering Authority to consider providing funding for maintenance programmes after termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

99. The Council is pleased to note that measures have been taken throughout the Trust Territory since the visit of the 1980 Visiting Mission to train more teachers and to provide more school books in local languages. The Council commends the activities promoted by the Territorial Teacher Training Assistance Program and hopes that funding will continue at least until the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

Higher education

100. The Council is pleased to note that the College of Micronesia, the only institution for higher education in the Trust Territory, continues to provide service to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Palau. None the less, the Council expresses concern at the fact that the buildings of the College are old and dilapidated. This has caused overcrowding and resulted in a lowering of standards. Particularly disturbing is the information that the College has been threatened with losing its accreditation. The Council notes that a new campus for the College has been earmarked by the Administering Authority. The Council recommends that this project be undertaken with the minimum of delay, and that funding for the construction of the new facilities be provided by the Administering Authority.

101. The Council notes with satisfaction that the rule of the Northern Mariana Islands Community College has been expanded and further defined to include additional training activities.

102. The Council notes the concern expressed by Vice-President Oiterong of Palau about insufficient scholarships and student loans for graduates to pursue studies abroad. It urges the Administering Authority to offer assistance in this area.

Indigenous languages and cultures

103. The Council is pleased to note the increasing interest shown by the constitutional Governments in preserving their cultural heritage as they approach the final steps to self-determination.

104. The Council notes with concern the deterioration of the buildings of the Palau Museum. It notes that the matter is under serious consideration and that it will be accorded priority.

105. The Council notes with pleasure that programmes for the preservation of indigenous language and the broadening of their use continue in the Trust Territory and at the University of Hawaii. It welcomes the fact that the Bilingual Education Program for Micronesia (BEPM) at the University of Hawaii continues to provide linguistic training in the major languages of the Territory.

Vocational training

106. The Council notes that the Micronesian Occupational College continues to be the primary public vocational institution in the Trust Territory. The Council further notes that the College represents a very important element in the training of Micronesians for employment in a variety of development sectors.

107. The Council notes with pleasure that the Micronesian Trades Apprenticeship Program (MTAP) graduated its first four-year class in October 1982 and that funding to continue the programme has been assured. The Council notes with particular

satisfaction that all graduates from the Federated States of Micronesia have been placed in jobs for which they were trained.

108. The Council welcomes the statement of the Administering Authority that it will continue to encourage co-operation in the development of manpower trained for actual job opportunities and needs in the various jurisdictions of the Trust Territory.

109. The Council expresses concern however that the overall employment record of Micronesian Occupational College graduates has deteriorated recently, with only about 75 per cent finding employment on leaving. The Council considers that close correlation between vocational training and job requirements is essential.

110. The Council welcomes the statement of Mr. Takesy of the Federated States of Micronesia that students are being sent to study at regional institutions offering training relevant to the needs of the area.

Teacher training

111. The Council notes with concern that a shortage of qualified teachers is still a problem throughout the Trust Territory. The Council, however, commends the efforts that are currently being made to remedy the situation.

112. The Council notes with satisfaction that several higher education extension programmes have been established in the Federated States of Micronesia to enable teachers to upgrade their skills as well as to acquire college degrees. The Council also welcomes the dramatic increase in the educational qualifications of teachers in the Northern Mariana Islands.

113. The Council once again reiterates that special attention should be given to the College of Micronesia as the principal institution for teacher training and urges the Administering Authority to make every effort to improve the level of educational qualifications in the period preceding termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

Dissemination of information on the United Nations

114. The Council takes note of views expressed in the course of the fiftieth session concerning this subject. It urges the Administering Authority to co-operate fully with the constitutional Governments and the United Nations Informaion Centre at Tokyo in ensuring rapid, efficient and comprehensive dissemination of information on the United Nations and the International Trusteeship System in the Trust Territory.

F. CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS TOWARDS
SELF-GOVERNMENT OR INDEPENDENCE

115. The Trusteeship Council reaffirms the inalienable right of the people of Micronesia to self-determination, including the right to independence in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Trusteeship Agreement.

116. The Council notes that plebiscites on the future political status of the Trust Territory have now taken place in the Northern Mariana Islands and Palau and that a further plebiscite is scheduled for 21 June in the Federated States of Micronesia. The Council also takes note of the assurance by the Administering Authority that a plebiscite will also take place in the Marshall Islands in the near future.

117. The Council takes note of the statements made by the representatives of the constitutional Governments emphasizing their wish to maintain links with the Administering Authority after termination of the Trusteeship Agreement.

118. The Council takes note of the fact that full functional self-government in the Trust Territory will be realized with the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and the assumption of a new political status.

119. The Council notes with satisfaction the Administering Authority's reaffirmation that the people of Micronesia will, following a thorough political education programme, have the opportunity to choose their future political status from a range of options, including independence.

120. The Council takes note of the outcome of the plebiscite held in Palau on 10 February 1983, in which 61.4 per cent of those voting opted for free association with the United States. It further takes note that 51.3 per cent voted for a provision of the compact relating to the introduction of radioactive substances into Palau. It notes in particular the view of the Visiting Mission to Observe the Plebiscite in Palau that since the figure of 51.3 per cent fell short of the 75 per cent required under the Palau Constitution for the adoption of such a provision, the compact had been approved by the people of Palau but could not enter into force. The Council endorses the view of the Visiting Mission that it appeared to be for the Governments of the United States and of Palau to look for a mutually acceptable solution which would make it possible to bring about harmony between article II, section 3 of the Palau Constitution and section 314 of the compact of free association. To this end, it notes that a task force has been established by the Palau Government and that the Administering Authority stands ready to pursue intensive discussions with the Palau Government with a view to resolving the problem.

121. The Council notes with concern the successive postponements of the date of the Palau plebiscite and the view of the Visiting Mission that those postponements had created some doubts and uncertainties in the minds of the voters. The Council expresses the hope that no such delays will affect the forthcoming plebiscite in the Federated States of Micronesia on 21 June; and that the date for the plebiscite in the Marshall Islands will be announced well in advance and adhered to.

122. The Council notes with satisfaction the conclusion of the Visiting Mission that the political campaign had been conducted in complete freedom with no improper intervention by the Administering Authority. It welcomes the Visiting Mission's conclusion that there had been no voting irregularities and the counting of the votes had been scrupulously and carefully carried out.

123. The Council notes that following approval of the compact in accordance with the constitutional processes of the Governments concerned and the United States Congress, the Administering Authority will take up the matter of the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement both with the Trusteeship Council and with the Security Council in accordance with the provisions of Article 83 of the United Nations Charter.

124. As in previous years, the Council does not wish to make precise recommendations on the future political status of the various Micronesian entities. It reiterates its view that free association is an option that is not incompatible with the Trusteeship Agreement, provided that the populations concerned have freely accepted it.

125. The Council welcomes the statement in the Administering Authority's report for 1982 that termination of the Trusteeship Agreement and assumption of a new political status should not create hardships for the economies of the constitutional Governments. In this context, it further welcomes the Administering Authority's commitment to provide economic assistance during the initial period of the free association relationship.

126. The Council notes with interest the statement by Mr. Oiterong, the Vice-President of Palau, that an interagency group was being formed to serve as a liaison arm of the United States Government for the post-Trusteeship period.

127. The Council expressed the hope that the Trusteeship Agreement could be speedily terminated as soon as the peoples of Micronesia had determined their future political status and that those Territories would henceforth have Governments which were elected in accordance with their Constitutions.

128. While fully accepting that the will of the peoples must be the principal determinant of the future political status of the Trust Territory, the Council expresses some regret at the decision of the peoples of Micronesia to seek their future separately rather than as one unified Territory. Accordingly, the Council again expresses the hope that the Micronesians will take all necessary steps to establish, after termination of the Trusteeship Agreement, the all-Micronesian entity which they agreed upon at Molokai in October 1977. It further emphasizes the need for practical co-operation and partnership between the peoples of Micronesia and urges the Administering Authority and the four constitutional Governments to co-operate fully towards that end.
